Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-082 *28 April 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Chief Delegate: Palestinian Talks To End Early

TA2704160395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yo'el Singer, the chief Israeli delegate to the Cairo talks with the Palestinians, says Israel plans to conclude the negotiations several weeks before the target date of 1 July. Mr. Singer said after today's meeting that the Palestinians must be allowed sufficient time to prepare for the elections, and for that reason, the negotiations on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment should be concluded prior to that date.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Envoy Views PA Measures on Hamas, Jihad

NC2704172595 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-Quddus] I found great difficulty in tackling this issue. Like any other person, I categorically reject the disarming and detention of Islamic mujahidin in the Gaza Strip. But we must listen to the Palestinian Authority's [PA] viewpoint. We also must write its viewpoint with all honesty and objectivity, even if I do not approve of it. Hence, the difficulty in handling the issue. What made me overcome the difficulty was my interlocutor Sa'id Kamal, who was not happy with the ongoing events. I thought he would launch a lightening attack on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. But this did not happen. I saw him trying to dress the wound and unify the Palestinian ranks.

At the start of the interview, I asked him why the mujahidin are being detained in Gaza. He said:

[Kamal] We have not yet discussed the main issues with the Israeli side. There will be a struggle in negotiations over these issues. Either the peace process ends well in establishing the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, or we will return to the jihad in cooperation with all the Palestinian factions. There is no difference of views among the Palestinians over the four basic issues. These issues are:

1. The problem of settlements and the need to eliminate them;

2. A just solution of the refugee problem;

3. Jerusalem; and

4. The demarcation of borders and the complete Israeli withdrawal from our land.

This shows that what brings our people together far exceeds that which keeps them divided. Israel's wager on the outbreak of a civil war among the Palestinians will never be achieved, God willing. I am willing to bet that Israel's bet is a losing bet.

['Abd-al-Quddus] I was very pleased with Sa'id Kamal's reply. He was very cautious in view of his sensitive position.

I asked him: But the detentions do not at all show that the PA is anxious to unify the Palestinian people's ranks. He answered calmly that these detentions can be summed up in two points. He said:

[Kamal] 1. Halting the acts of violence which originate in the self-rule areas against the Israelis so that we will not give the Israelis any pretext to back down on the Oslo Accord and the peace agreement; and

2. The other reason is economic. Israel hastens to deprive the sons of our people of their livelihood when ever there is an act of violence. Furthermore, the economic situation, particularly in Gaza, is bad. We really need some time to catch our breath and start reconstruction so that we will get the necessary international aid for reform. Violence does not help any state to give the required aid.

['Abd-al-Quddus] But does all this justify the detention of the mujahidin by mujahid Yasir 'Arafat? I never thought that the PLO would end up acting as a policeman for the account of Israel and the United States. Sa'id Kamal was not angered and did not protest what I said. He answered:

[Kamal] Rest assured, the PLO will continue to represent our people with all honesty. The PLO is the legitimate representative which expresses its nation's aspirations and pains. The PA will never work for anyone else. It will only serve the Palestinian people. However, there are people who are trying to harm Yasir 'Arafat, and that is what we are trying to reveal and curb.

['Abd-al-Quddus] My Palestinian interlocutor elaborated further:

[Kamal] There is an outstanding question that needs an answer; namely, why did suicide operations against Israel start only after 'Arafat arrived? Gaza was a pioneer of the intifadah. The Israelis paid such a dear price in Gaza that they evacuated it. But suicide operations were not carried out at such an extensive level until the PA was established there. That is the question that we want answered, to learn about the people behind the situation.

['Abd-al-Quddus] I said to him: Gaza has always been the leader. It is now trying to transform struggle from the intifadah to suicide operations that hurt the occupation and kill the largest possible number of soldiers and settlers. He said:

[Kamal] This is what we object to at this particular time. Let us give peace a chance. If all the paths are locked in

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its face, we will be entitled to seek other approaches. Only then will armed struggle against the occupier be all right.

['Abd-al-Quddus] I said: Your words do not justify the wide-scale arrests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members, as long as everybody agrees on the basic objectives. The differences lie only in the method and timing of struggle against the occupier. Sa'id Kamal answered elaborately, emphasizing a number of points:

[Kamal] 1. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has exhausted ways to persuade Hamas in particular to participate in the PA, or at least to act as an opposition political party. All this led to nothing. One of his basic demands is to release detainees held in Israeli jails, particularly Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

2. These arrests are temporary. We are eager to reach an agreement with the various Palestinian factions as soon as possible.

3. Through these arrests, we try to answer the aforementioned question on the reasons behind the multitude of suicide operations against the Israelis after 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza. We want to see if foreign parties are involved in that in order to weaken the Palestinian leader's negotiating position vis-a-vis Israel.

4. We are careful not to harm any detainee and to preserve his full rights.

5. Some parties in the media are working to drive a wedge between Abu-'Ammar and the Islamic current. I am certain that Hamas views Israel as its enemy number one and that its relations with the PA is based on carefulness to avoid infighting or a civil war. Unfortunately, some elements are harming Hamas from within. Our task is to uncover all the intruders that work for others. It is absolutely not true that the PA wants to engage in a war of annihilation against Hamas or to uproot it. We absolutely reject this. Moreover, it is not possible.

['Abd-al-Quddus] Another controversial matter is the collection of weapons from the mujahidin in the Gaza Strip. Sa'id Kamal did not attach much significance to this issue and asked:

[Kamal] Are we collecting tanks and aircraft from them? We are collecting weapons that can be easily replaced if circumstances make that necessary. The Israeli chief of staff said this himself. Also, the PA can never allow organizations to bear arms without its consent. This is not an innovation; all countries do that.

['Abd-al-Quddus] Abu-'Ammar's loyalists have accused Hamas of obtaining weapons from the Israelis. Do you accept this contention?

[Kamal] I believe there is a lot of exaggeration here. At any rate this is not an accusation because it is easy enough to acquire Israeli weapons. Some Israeli soldiers are selling weapons. It is not a secret and was publicly admitted by Israel.

['Abd-al-Quddus] Sa'id Kamal refused to comment on reports disseminated by pro-Abu-'Ammar media about an Iranian role inside the occupied land. Kamal's sensitive post in the Arab League does not allow him to answer questions on this matter. Nevertheless, he replied to a question about the Egyptian Government's role in provoking incidents among the Palestinians.

[Kamal] Anyone who knows Abu-'Ammar will completely rule out the idea that anyone can steer him toward a decision he does not want to make.

['Abd-al-Quddus] There is, however, security coordination between Egypt and the PA, isn't there?

[Kamal] What is strange about that? There is security coordination between the PA and most Arab countries, not only with Egypt. I believe this is necessary for the region's security and benefit.

['Abd-al-Quddus] My last question to Kamal was about Abu-'Ammar's status and whether he has become a despotic ruler engaged in negotiations with the Israelis and the Americans after being for so long a symbol of the resistance.

[Kamal] Abu-'Ammar will remain what he has always been, a symbol of the Palestinian nation. He is negotiating with the parties you have mentioned for the sake of our struggler people's rights and dignified life. It is not true at all that he has become a despot. He allows discussion of issues to a very great extent and is very patient. However, when the majority makes a decision, the minority must respect it. Moreover, Abu-'Ammar's relations with Hamas and other organizations in Gaza and Jericho, before the recent dispute, demonstrate his commitment to democracy. These organizations have total freedom of action and assembly. All that the Authority asks them to do is avoid violence. In my opinion, Jordan's Muslim Brothers are an example to follow. They strongly opposed the peace agreement with Israel but did not resort to armed action to halt it.

Islamic Affairs

Organization Supports Libyan Decision on Pilgrims

NC2704153795 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The Executive Bureau of the International People's Islamic Leadership [al-qiyadah al-sha'biyah al-islamiyah al-'alamiyah] has issued the following statement:

O Muslim masses: The new Western crusader onslaught led by the United States and NATO, an onslaught that uses various methods, has expanded to include religious rites. For the third year running, the unjust and oppressive resolution of the so-called UN Security Council—one of the crusader's tools—is preventing your Muslim brothers in Libya from responding to God's call that "pilgrimage is a duty men owe to God—those who can

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afford the journey" [Koranic verse]. It is submissiveness and wretchedness that the crusaders should interfere in Muslims' worship affairs and their relationship with their God, and force Muslims to obtain permission to perform a duty that God has imposed on them. This means obeying the legitimacy of the so-called Security Council and disregarding the legitimacy of God!

This ignominious situation prompted many Islamic forces, figures, and party members of the International People's Islamic Leadership, and Muslim masses in many parts of the world, to support the announcement that revolutionary Muslim Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the International People's Islamic Leadership, made when the Muslim Libyan Arab people were celebrating the expulsion of the British forces from Libyan territory; namely, that the Muslim Libyan Arab people insist on performing the hajj duty this year directly from Libya to the holy lands on board Libyan Arab Airlines planes, without submission to the crusaders. The Islamic forces, figures, and parties also expressed their readiness to participate in the implementation of this step to enable their Muslim brothers in Libya to perform the hajj duty as God Almighty wished for his faithful people.

"So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: for you must gain mastery if you are true in faith." [Koranic verse]

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on International Donor's Conference

Minister Sha'th Views Outcome

JN2704100595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Interview from the "Panorama" program with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Ahmad Birru on 26 April, place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] The donor states' committee began a preliminary meeting [in Paris] yesterday. You said the meeting get off to a bad start. Why?

[Sha'th] Yesterday's bad start was caused by the reluctance of some of the main donor states to commit themselves to a timetable to pay their shares before the end of the year. We want the donor states, for this year only, to commit themselves to a timetable. We will also commit ourselves to what we should do, and the Israelis should also promise not to hamper this timetable with closures and sieges. We want a clear timetable that ends the financial crisis that has been plaguing us month after month, causing us to waste our efforts and complicating our planning.

Regrettably, some states yesterday did not want this. They want us to remain captives to the crisis throughout the year. This really made us feel things are bogged down, that if things go on like this, we will have no place in this meeting. However, things changed this morning.

[Birru] You said yesterday's meeting was negative. Was there any definite cause for this negativism?

[Sha'th] The definite cause is the failure to demonstrate a clear commitment to a definite budget and to an annual plan to extend assistance. Without this plan, assistance becomes daily blackmail and a daily crisis. We do not want this.

[Birru] The Palestinian budget is suffering a $130 million deficit. The reason for this deficit is well-known; namely, the donor states' failure to pay. In your view, what are the means to cover this deficit?

[Sha'th] The only way is for the donor states to be committed to this amount and to any arrears in the form of monthly payments from now until the end of the year. Israel should not resort to closures that rob us of internal resources that lead to self-reliance through taxes. There are terms that Israel should observe and terms to be observed by donor states. In return, and for a long time, we have been observing the terms the donor states asked us to apply. We have observed them in administration, auditing, and eslewhere.

[Birru] What should the donor states offer in order to cover the deficit this year?

[Sha'th] The amount is $136 million regarding the current deficit and $92 in arrears from last year, that is, $228 million, leaving $770 million for projects. The accumulated amounts that the donor states should pay and the sums they promised this year amount to $1 billion. We want 25 percent of this amount to be used in the current budget and the remaining 75 percent to be spent on projects.

[Birru] Can you name states that fail to pay or stall in paying their shares?

[Sha'th] We talk in figures. We do not want to direct any undue blame at anybody. The donor states are generous and are prepared to assist and therefore, we cannot criticize them. But we must say that if one commits himself to anything, he must carry out his commitment. Last year, the United States offered 35 percent of what it promised. The EU paid about 75 percent of its assistance but its contribution to loans was zero percent, making the aid amount in general only 40 percent of what it promised. Japan paid more. Our Arab brothers in the Gulf, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, very clearly fail to honor their promises. Some European states, outside the EU, have honored only 15 to 20 percent of what they promised. Each state knows what it has to pay. We ask them to pay what they promised to pay and nothing else.

[Birru] Bilateral meetings will be held on the sidelines of the aid coordination committee meeting, probably tomorrow. What will be the most important meetings?

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[Sha'th] The most important meeting will be held today on credit facilities and loans. This meeting is being held now.

[Birru] Dennis Ross, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, will arrive in Paris to join the meetings. What hopes do you pin on the role he will play?

[Sha'th] We are aware that in its present position, when the United States asks for an amount of money from any state, it normally obtains a positive response. We have seen how it obtained billions of dollars to finance the Gulf war, for instance. Therefore, we do not believe that it is realistic for the United States to request a few dozen millions in aid and receive apologies for financial considerations. I believe the United States, which originally accepted this responsibility, is capable of realizing this commitment and obviating an urgent and continuous financial crisis for us. We realize the responsibility of Mr. Dennis Ross is to support the donor nations' promises in terms of improving their financial attitude, especially since the United States does not want to pressure Israel concerning the closures in a way that leads to an Israel's commitment in this regard. Therefore, the United States should at least use its pressure to implement the donor nation's promises.

[Birru] Israel announced that it is prepared to extend loans for investments in the Palestinian Authorities areas. Will these loans be Israeli ones or will Israel pressure other countries to invest loans?

[Sha'th] In fact this has not been finalized yet. We want Israel to first adhere to the political and economic agreement; to refrain from closures, stalling, delays, and collective punishment; and to behave as a peace process partner and not to use the mentality of occupation, repression, and collective punishment. Naturally, we are fully aware of our responsibility concerning security and the implementation of our part of the agreement. If this is done, then we will be able to obtain funds from the Palestinian people—Palestinian and Arab investors—and we will not need Israeli loans.

Now there are certain projects that are proposed on the Israeli-Palestinian border. But Israel must finance the part belonging to it, on its side of the border, and not hinder the transfer of goods and personnel. Israel promised to offer us assistance through the donor states but has only offered very little of this assistance. We tell Israel: Pay the taxes you are obtaining on our behalf and we will be very thankful to you.

[Birru] Palestinian-Israeli meetings are being held in Cairo to reach an agreement on elections but these meetings have not led to an agreement on elections in Jerusalem, especially concerning the possibility of having Palestinians from Jerusalem run for the national council membership. Will this issue be a decisive one during this round on elections or will the Jerusalem issue be postponed?

[Sha'th] The issue of Jerusalem cannot be postponed. There can be no agreement without the rights of the Palestinian residents to vote and run for membership. It is possible that this will not be done during this round of meetings provided that all of this will be finished before 1 July, the date before which Israel promised to complete the elections.

[Birru] This means that the Palestinian side insists that Jerusalem should be represented in the national council by elements from Jerusalem itself and with Palestinian voters from Jerusalem?

[Sha'th] Indubitably yes.

[Birru] Thank You, Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

Calls Meeting 'Successful'

NC2704212195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 27 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the committee coordinating aid to the Palestinians, has told a MENA correspondent that the meetings were successful. They ended positively despite their negative start, he said.

Dr. Sha'th praised Egypt's position in the Paris meetings. He said the speech delivered by the Egyptian ambassador in Paris and the head of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings was important, and he said that Egypt adopted the Palestinian position, especially on the issue of border closure, and indeed on every issue.

He said the meetings ended with a commitment to the Palestinian budget and with the allocation of 25 percent of the aid pledged by the donor states for expenditures to meet the Palestinian Authority's current spending needs. The meetings also ended with Israeli obligations concerning the border closures and payment of due taxes levied by Israel.

Sha'th stated: Generally, the American position developed. It was negative at first, with the Americans unwilling to be committed to the Palestinian budget. But the Americans ended up adopting the budget after they became convinced.

Dr. Sha'th said that delegations from other countries, such as Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Kuwait, delivered speeches at the meetings. As regards money, he said, there was no pledge to cover the deficit in the current needs except from Kuwait, which pledged to pay $4 million. But Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates told us that they will soon announce their contribution, Sha'th added.

'Optimistic' About Results

JN2804120395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1055 GMT 28 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Rajih Qaddur in the studio, in Paris on 28 April; from "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] Dr. Sha'th, have the results of the Paris donor nations' meeting been sufficient to meet the needs of the Palestinian Authority, at least in terms of covering the budget's deficit?

[Sha'th] Let us say an important step on this road has been realized. All the donor nations have adopted the cause of the Palestinian budget; that is, paying $136 million to cover the deficit. This morning, a few hours ago, the figure rose to $80 million instead of the $60 million announced yesterday.

[Qaddur] What about the remainder of the amount? Do you think it will be paid soon?

[Sha'th] I hope so. This morning it was announced that the United Arab Emirates will pay $10 million and will deposit $17 million for Palestinian projects in the Abu Dhabi Fund. I believe Saudi Arabia will not be late in announcing the sum it will add to these sums, from the $100 million it pledged to pay this year. If it pays the $20 million we are expecting, the amount will reach $100 million. We have agreed to meet in Washington in the first week of June.

[Qaddur] Talking of the Gulf states, what makes these states stall in honoring their promises, do you think?

[Sha'th] Each state has its own decsionmaking procedures. Apparently the decisions were not ready. We realize that Kuwait—and I believe this is a positive move—has pledged $25 million this year for Palestinian support. Kuwait has announced that $4 million will go to the Holst fund to cover the deficit. With this, in addition to the $10 million for the Holst fund and the $17 million for projects, other Gulf states will thus rally round. I do not believe Saudi Arabia will be very late in announcing what it has decided to pay.

[Qaddur] Yesterday, we heard that an additional $440 million will be given to the Palestinian Authority this year. Where do we stand on this issue? Are you optimistic?

[Sha'th] I am realistically optimistic. I realize funds are no longer easy to obtain. I hope the day will soon come when we will not rely on foreign assistance. Naturally, we must make endeavors. This morning's meeting and meetings over the past three or four days, have enhanced my optimism.

[Qaddur] There were other issues discussed by the donor states, such as the crossings. What about these issues?

[Sha'th] The Israeli delegation pledged to do their utmost to facilitate and speed up passage between Gaza and the West Bank and Israel, between Gaza and Egypt, and between the West Bank and Jordan. It was announced today that the Qarni crossing will be opened in addition to the Erez crossing to simplify the crossing procedure between Gaza and Israel. I also agreed with General (Oren Shakhur) to meet in Rafah on 5 May to complete the required measures at the Rafah crossing, particularly the passage of goods to and from Egypt.

Participants Sign Aid Accord With PA

TA2804091995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 95 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Nitzan Horowitz in France]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris—The gathering of the donor states in Paris concluded last night with the signing of a trilateral agreement which defines the commitments of Israel, the Palestinians, and the donor states within the framework of the international aid package to the autonomy. All the representatives at the Paris conference welcomed the signing of the accord and expressed the hope that it would speed up aid to the autonomy, thereby underpinning the peace process, which is in distress.

The accord has a dual aim: to cover the Palestinian Authority's [PA] accumulated deficit of $220 million and to guarantee the PA's ability to repay in the long run. Emphasis was also put on laying the foundations for the autonomy's economic development. The agreement notes that the PA has to reach the point at which it is able to fund its expenditures from its own income. All the conference participants stressed the progress made in the flow of aid to the autonomy since the Washington conference in October 1993, but noted the need for additional progress in that field.

In the chapter dealing with the PA's initiatives, there are several main principles, led by the commitment to freeze salaries and manpower slots. In addition, the following initiatives are emphasized: assuring an efficient tax collection system, centralizing all tax income, working out a tax plan for the future, reaching an agreement with Israel on settling debts and reimbursing taxes, implementing the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund, presenting multiseasonal reports, and preparing a single budget for 1996. The agreement states that the Palestinians have to make an effort so that "the support of the donors to cover initial expenditures will not be requested after 31 December."

Israel also made several commitments, which it is doing anyway: to cooperate with the PA to assure an efficient tax collection system on the West Bank. Israel reconfirmed its commitment to transfer to the PA all the tax income owed to it. The document states that the director general of the Israeli Treasury will be the main link on economic issues dealing with aid to the PA. Israel also declared that it will do everything it can to assure free passage of goods to the territories and to advance the establishment of industrial parks and a deep water port in Gaza.

In the chapter dealing with the donor countries, it states that they will participate in funding the PA's current account budget until the end of 1995. It was agreed last night that the donor states would immediately transfer $60 million and that the rest (some $70 million) would

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be transferred "in the near future." The Norwegian chairman of the donors' forum praised the budget presented in Paris by the Palestinian finance minister, calling it "a serious budget, which constitutes a firm basis for progress." [passage omitted]

Accord With Israel on Cargo Terminals

TA2704174895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Paris, at a conference of the donor countries to the Palestinians, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations have agreed that two cargo terminals are to be set up on the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. One would be at the Erez checkpoint, while the other would be at the Qarni crossing. Israel will fund the project of setting up the terminals. The project will allow for the transfer of goods to and from the Gaza Strip. The terminals will be used by trucks arriving from both sides, which will transfer their cargo to one another: Israeli to Palestinian trucks into the Gaza Strip, and Palestinian to Israeli trucks into Israel.

'Arafat Adviser: Land Confiscation Endangers Peace

NC2804095495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0952 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority, has warned that the Middle East peace process is in jeopardy after Israel's decision to expropriate new land in east Jerusalem's suburbs to build Israeli settlements.

In statements to the BBC today, Abu-Rudaynah appealed to the international community to intervene to "save" the peace process. He said Israel's decision to confiscate over 50 hectares of land on east Jerusalem suburbs to build settlements is a "serious violation of the accord" signed between Israel and the PLO.

Cancellation of 'Scheme' Demanded

JN2704150395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement today, an official Palestinian source said that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] considers the Israeli scheme aimed at confiscating approximately 530 donums of Jerusalem land a serious action and a flagrant violation of the agreements signed between the PNA and the Israeli Government.

The source described the Israeli scheme as an attempt to create a new reality that stands in the way of a final solution, adding that this scheme is a violation of Palestinian rights to the city.

The Palestinian source demanded that the Israeli Government immediately cancel this scheme in compliance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] and with the agreement that the two parties should not make any demographic, geographic, and physical changes on the ground during the interim stage of the peace process.

The source urged the international community, led by the cosponsors of the peace process and the UN Security Council, to quickly shoulder its responsibilities and end the Israeli practices that conflict with international norms, human rights, and the requirements of the peace process.

The PLO, through its UN representative, called for quickly lodging a complaint with the UN Security Council in this regard.

For his part, Latif al-Duri, secretary of the Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue Committee, said that the new Israeli scheme to confiscate Palestinian land in the Jerusalem area is a violation of the Palestinian-Israeli DOP.

In press statements today, al-Duri said that stealing land and building settlements threatens to destroy the peace process. He added that the Israeli Government will be held fully responsible for the outcome of the policy of Israeli settlement building.

'Arafat Meets EU Panel; Assails Land Expropriation

JN2704113395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a European troika delegation at the presidential office in Gaza this morning. Talks dealt with aid to the Palestinian National Authority, the economic situation, and the effects of the economic blockade.

Following the meeting, President 'Arafat reacted to the expropriation of 500 donums of Jerusalem land by saying: The expropriation of these lands is a flagrant violation of the peace agreement. The agreement is being violated daily, he added.

Condemns Israel's 'Daily' Violations

JN2704153095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Dispatch by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement is being violated daily and that the confiscation of Palestinian lands is one of these violations.

President 'Arafat was commenting on Israel's decision to confiscate 500 donums of Palestinian land in Jerusalem.

President 'Arafat told the press today that the military siege Israel is imposing is an explicit violation, and

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causes many economic problems for Palestinian workers and for Palestinian products in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

President 'Arafat received a European Troika delegation at the presidency in Gaza today.

President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said that President 'Arafat accepted an invitation extended to the Palestinian Authority [PA] by the Troika delegation to participate in the Troika conference to convene in Barcelona this November.

Abu-Rudaynah, who attended the meeting, said that the delegation discussed with President 'Arafat the positive impact this conference might have on the PA. The discussion also dealt with Europe's role, through the donor countries' aid, in establishing the infrastructure in the PA areas.

Authority Seeking 10,000 New Houses in Jerusalem

TA2704135295 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—AL-NAHAR has learned that the Palestinian National Authority recently presented a plan to the Arab League for financing the construction of 10,000 housing units in Jerusalem. The plan is expected to be implemented this year.

According to Palestinian sources, Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's representative to the Arab League, presented this plan after it had been agreed on in principle by a number of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Morocco.

It is expected that this plan will be followed by similar projects based on the system used by the Israelis in obtaining foreign aid to Judaize Jerusalem.

It is worth noting that this plan was initiated to prove the Arab Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, especially at this stage, which is witnessing an Israeli acceleration of the Judaization of the city prior to the start of the final talks on Jerusalem in the middle of next year.

Security Forces Chief Meets U.S. Envoy to Israel

JN2704190095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces in the Gaza Strip today met with the U.S. ambassador to Israel. They discussed security issues.

Major General Nasr Yusuf and the U.S. ambassador toured some border areas in which there is constant tension between the Palestinian citizens and Israeli settlers.

Hamas, PA Officials on Reconciliation; More Arrests

TA2704111895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader has accused Prime Minister Rabin of trying to spark off a civil war in the Gaza Strip. Shaykh Sayyid Abu-Musamih added that his organization's military machine would not stop acting wherever there was occupation or settlers.

An Israel radio reporter notes that no progress has been made in contacts between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas on the stoppage of attacks from the autonomous areas.

A leading member of the PLO, 'Abdallah Hurani, says the PA has no right to condition a reconciliation with the opposition on acceptance of the Oslo agreement. Hurani is a member of the PLO Central Committee.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian police have arrested Tahir al-Nunu, a reporter for the AL-NAHAR newspaper, after 10 days in prison. [sentence as heard] He was arrested after writing that the blast in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood was caused by a bomb that was planted at the building where the explosion occurred.

Nine residents of the West Bank have been arrested by the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip. All are students of the local Islamic College, and they are accused of being active members of the Hamas organization.

Daily Accuses PA of 'Direct Campaign' Against Iran

TA2804105495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Apr 95 p 9

[Commentary by Pinhas Inbari: " 'Arafat Is Shaking a Fist at Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A dangerous development occurred this week when the Palestinian Authority [PA] launched a direct campaign against Iran. The Palestinians accused the fundamentalist regime of being the successors of the old Persian fire-worshipers, who had fought the Arab tribes since even before the advent of Islam.

The Iranians, the PA says, are now creating instability in many Arab countries, such as Algeria, and want to instigate a Palestinian civil war as part of an overall war against the Arabs.

The PA's intention is quite clear: to depict the Iranian-supported Islamic Jihad as serving anti-Arab interests.

The danger is that this is not just a war of words between 'Arafat and Iran, but potentially a real war. 'Arafat truly believes that Islamic Jihad and 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam,

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the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] are manipulated from abroad, and he has plenty of evidence.

In fact, at a PA meeting last Saturday [22 April] in Gaza, 'Arafat accused Iran of interfering in Gaza through the Muslim radicals. He revealed that Iran has shifted additional funding to Islamic Jihad and Hamas from allocations to civil purposes in Gaza: from kindergartens to grenades. This time, 'Arafat was not propagandizing.

Accordingly, during the latest round of talks between 'Arafat and the Islamic opposition, he was not yet ready to reach agreement with them. He demanded to see proof that they had received authorization from Iran to cut a deal with him. He told Islamic Jihad to first apply to their shura (an old-style consultative body of leadership). To the representative of Hamas, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, he averred that due to a split inside Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam no longer receives its orders from the head of Hamas, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Al-Zahhar rejected the notion of a split, but admitted that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam does not toe the line of the leadership.

What is this outside leadership 'Arafat was referring to?

For Islamic Jihad, it is Damascus-based Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi, who takes orders from Syria and Iran.

As for Hamas, it is more complicated. The chairman of Hamas's politburo is Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, the founder of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. But 'Arafat pointed to two other directions, away from Syria: last week he accused Jordan of giving shelter to Hamas's leadership, and earlier claimed that the Hamas leadership is located in Cairo, as part of the Muslim Brotherhood leadership.

Those claims upset Jordan's King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and caused problems between 'Arafat and these two leaders. This was probably why 'Arafat was careful not to blame Syria directly.

According to Palestinian sources, 'Arafat believes that the Cairo-based Supreme Guidance Committee of 13 members, most of them from the city's Muslim Brotherhood, is the real Hamas leadership. Hamas's representative on the committee is a Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood leader, Shaykh Yusuf al-'Azm.

The West has taken notice of the importance of external Hamas leadership. After the 1991 Madrid conference, Western leaders initiated meetings with Hamas leaders in Khartoum, Cairo and Amman. Diplomats from Spain, Norway, France and Britain participated in the meetings. About two years ago, a minor American diplomat stationed in Amman met with Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas's men in Jordan.

The fact that the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas are working together abroad does not mean that they represent a united movement. Moreover, there is evidence that, during the meetings with diplomats, there was infighting among the Muslim participants.

According to Palestinian sources, Ghawshah and Nazzal told the diplomats that Hamas is operating according to "international legitimacy," exercising the right of a nation under occupation to resist—an approach, in fact, very similar to Syria's.

(When US Secretary of State Warren Christopher approached Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad about terrorism by pro-Syrian Palestinian groups, al-Asad replied that they practiced "legitimate anti-occupation activity.")

Hamas promised the diplomats they would confine their operations to military targets only, refraining from attacking civilians. However, it was only since then that the major attacks against civilians began. It is therefore to be understood that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam's string of atrocities against Israeli civilians were Abu-Marzuq's way of showing the West that he is their real address—not the two Amman representatives.

Abu-Marzuq, an American citizen, reportedly visited Washington in January or February in secret, and met with American representatives. US officials denied the report.

What is certain is that a French consular official based in eastern Jerusalem met last month with 'Imad al-Faluji, a prominent follower of Abu-Marzuq in Gaza. Later on, al-Faluji and another Hamas activist in Gaza, Tahir Shuraytah, were invited to a media symposium in Madrid—both are journalists—and met with Spanish and European officials. What was discussed in those meetings is unclear, but it is believed the officials were probing Hamas's conditions to stop terrorism and join the peace process.

The dimension of the threat to 'Arafat is much greater than merely the scope of activity by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the territories.

The frightening potential of that danger is apparent from an interview given to the London daily AL-HAYAH by Ramzi Yusuf, after his arrest in Pakistan on suspicion of preparing the car bomb used in the World Trade Center attack in New York in 1993.

Yusuf, who identified himself as a Kuwait-born Palestinian from a Haifa-based family, revealed that his motivation for the New York bomb attack was Palestinian nationalism. Aligned with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, he inferred that the bombing also served as a message that 'Arafat's problems are widespread and international, rather than cosmetic and local.

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Algeria

Sifi Comments on Elections, Economy, 'Terrorism'

NC2804065895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has denied that the government has sanctioned the formation of armed groups of citizens to combat terrorist groups. He emphasized that the Algerian people have switched to the state's side in its war on violence and terrorism wearing the cloak of Islam.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' to be published on 29 April, Sifi said many young men who enlisted in the armed terrorist groups have severed their links with these subversive terrorist groups. Today, he added, they are playing an important role together with the state in combating terrorism, which committed every kind of crime against the people and the country's public order. He said this change is now an encouraging phenomenon in Algeria.

Sifi said security has improved enormously recently and that work is proceeding normally on various production sites.

He said his country is making every preparation and holding intense contacts with Algerian parties and organizations to hold presidential elections by the end of this year.

The Algerian prime minister said the most important aspect of the Algerian crisis is the political aspect and that, therefore, national dialogue on the country's political future is an irreversible option, something that is unchangeable.

He added: We will begin with the presidential elections because they are the most important and the easiest; the head of state is a guarantor for the Constitution. Legislative and municipal elections, meanwhile, require extensive procedures.

He asserted that President Liamine Zeroual and the government welcome any suggestion from any Algerian party within the national dialogue with a view to reaching consensus on how to emerge from the crisis in Algeria.

In his interview with AL-AHRAM, the Algerian prime minister said foreign parties support the armed terrorist groups in Algeria. He added that Algerian terrorist leaders are moving freely in some countries and receive financial aid and weapons from these countries.

He said major armed confrontations occur with the armed terrorist groups in Algeria but added that in the official announcement of such confrontations the outcome is left to the discretion of the security agencies.

Sifi said his country rejects interference in its internal affairs but added: We still might request assistance in holding the elections.

Commenting on the economy, he said his government is proceeding with economic transition and has chosen this difficult path because there is no alternative to remedying the economy or to the country's settling its debts and upgrading its economic standards.

The Algerian prime minister noted that 15,000 have died in terrorist operations and that material losses amount to 80 billion dinars, over $2 billion.

Increased Strife Reported Between Islamist Groups

LD2704173495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian daily LE MATIN today reported that new clashes between the two armed Islamist factions GIA [Armed Islamic Group] and AIS [Islamic Salvation Army] caused seven dead at the beginning of the week in Jijel in the east of the country. Details from Farida Ayari:

[Ayari] The clashes between the armed Islamist movements are believed to be becoming increasingly frequent. The Islamic Salvation Army—the armed wing of the Islamic Salvation Front—is confronting the GIA guerrillas, whose stance is regarded as much more radical.

According to LE MATIN, the latest clash took place last Monday in Beni Khattab not far from Jijel, in eastern Algeria. The AIS men were led by their national leader, Madani Merzak, and the GIA's by (Farid Achi). The outcome was seven dead. The survivors fled when the security forces arrived.

Fighting in the same region on the 15 April in Jijel and Guelma left 30 dead. Various clashes last month caused 60 dead.

LE MATIN said that in March, acting on information received from the GIA, the security forces annihilated a group of 18 AIS men near Constantine. The paper said that the daughter of the AIS's number two man, (Ahmed Benaicha), was kidnapped from Ain Defla by GIA people. According to LA TRIBUNE, (Ahmed Benaicha) himself escaped an attempted kidnapping.

Madani Merzak, the GIA's national emir, and Kamreddine Kherbane one of the Islamist leaders abroad, have denied that any such clashes took place, referring to mere friction between armed groups.

Sifi Chairs Socioeconomic Council Meeting

LD2504124995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The third public session of the Economic and Social Council opened today at the Club de Pins, chaired by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi. The

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council will discuss a number of important issues such as housing, industrial restructuring, privatization, and the social contract between the government and the trade unions. A number of reports prepared by the council's committees, and various organizational issues will also be discussed during the next three days.

Germans Claim 'Huge' Oil Deposits Discovered

LD2704181195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The German Veba Oel AG Oil Company is continuing its exploration in the first oil well east of Hassi Messaoud according to the Arab Oil and Gas magazine. The company began work last month and will explore a second well east of the Gassi Touil field in accordance with an agreement between SONATRACH and the German company.

The magazine pointed out that the previous exploration work by the German company indicated the presence of huge commercial quantities of high-quality crude oil.

Agriculture Cooperation Accord Signed With Canada

LD2604153895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A protocol of understanding between Algeria and Canada was signed in Ottawa on 24 April on the occasion of Agriculture Minister Nourreddine Bahbouh's visit to Canada.

The protocol stipulated the establishment of cooperation in the spheres of agriculture and agricultural nutrition, the development of technical and economic cooperation in the production sectors, and the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

It also stipulated encouraging and facilitating exchanges between Canadian provinces and Algerian public enterprises, preparing joint programs, and setting up exchanges in the spheres of training, research, media, and biological materials. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Security Source Reports 2 Killed in al-Minya Clashes

NC2604112895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Terrorist Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid Radwan was killed in a clash with security forces in Minsha'at al-Mughaliqah, Markaz Mallawi, yesterday and citizen Safwat Thabit Kilani, a farmer, died from his wounds in his field.

An official security source at the Interior Ministry stated that as part of the effort to capture terrorists and acting on information that some terrorists were trying to commit hostile acts against security men in Minsha'at al-Mughaliqah, forces of the State Security Intelligence and the Public Security, supported by the al-Minya security force, laid ambushes in various parts of the plantation area.

The source said that at 1700 yesterday one of the groups in these ambushes saw two suspects approaching. Asked to give themselves up, the two opened fire. The security force returned the fire. Terrorist Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid Radwan was killed. He was accused in Case No. 4315/94 Administrative, Markaz Mallawi—an attack on the office of the head of Minsha'at al-Mughaliqah.

The source said a Hulwan pistol loaded with a full magazine and some ammunition was found on the terrorist. The other terrorist fled and citizen Safwat Thabit Kilani, who was in his field, was martyred.

Leaders of the al-Minya Security Directorate, officials from the various investigation agencies, and forensic experts went to the scene and police services are trying to capture the fugitive terrorist.

Al-Alfi on Terrorism, Human Rights, Crime Summit

NC2704114895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has stated that terrorism is now under control and that terrorists are retreating countrywide. He noted that the use of modern technology and advanced communication means, in addition to upgrading training in various police sectors, have greatly contributed to curbing crime.

In an interview published by AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in Cairo today, al-Alfi said terrorist incidents are on the increase in various places and the security forces' task is to preempt crime and be ready for it.

He added that last year alone, 136 conferences, including the international conference on population, and an opera near Luxor were staged. He noted that not one incident undermining security occurred during these conferences, when foreigners walked the streets day and night, and added that they could not do that in their own countries.

Al-Alfi answered a question on charges by some human rights organizations against law enforcement agencies in Egypt. He emphasized that Egypt is one of the countries that respect human rights and that these charges are no more than a campaign against Egypt. He added that some officers of the law enforcement agencies, as happens in other countries, could have committed violations. The state's hands, he said, did not remain tied regarding these charges, adding that some were investigated and others brought to trial while some others are serving sentences for violations.

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He said we should not forget that some officers lose their lives in attacks on terrorists, just as some terrorists die. He asked: Then why do these organizations not denounce the killing of police personnel or why do they defend the attackers and forget the victims?

On the anticrime conference due to be opened in Cairo on Saturday [29 April], al-Alfi said the selection of Egypt to host this conference reflects the United Nations' confidence in Egypt and in its ability to organize this big event. He added that over 2,000 delegates from 150 countries will participate in the conference, discussing issues concerning terrorism and organized crime at a time when terrorism has turned into an international phenomenon.

He pointed out that Egypt will propose setting up a center for research, training, and combating terrorism by the Mediterranean countries to be headquartered at the Police Academy in Cairo. This, he said, confirms that Egypt is leading those countries that are more advanced in combating organized crime and money laundering, something that is in line with the provisions of the Egyptian law that stipulates the need to prove the legality of sources of income.

Mubarak Receives al-Qadhdhafi Phone Call

NC2704195395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution this evening. They exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi also conveyed to the president Libya's congratulations on the anniversary of the return of Sinai.

Article Questions Process for Election

95LD0041C Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Feb 95 p 3

[Article from the "Good Morning" column by Sa'id Sinbil]

[FBIS Translated Text] I think I have a right as a taxpayer in Egypt to draw attention to the fissure between the courts and the People's Assembly as regards deciding challenges to the validity of membership in the People's Assembly.

I think I have a right to call for a remedy for this fissure, so that Egyptian citizens—the writer of these lines being one of them—do not pay the price of the mistakes that arise from it, while those who caused it pay nothing and bear no penalty.

We are used to the fact that after each parliamentary election many of the unsuccessful candidates challenge the election results either as falsified, miscounted, or for some other reason. Ordinarily, the Court of Cassation examines and investigates these complaints and prepares a report giving its opinion. Sometimes the Court of Cassation accepts a complaint; sometimes it rejects it as not serious.

The Court of Cassation forwards its investigations to the People's Assembly as the authority competent to confirm the validity of a member's membership. The normal and logical procedure would be for the People's Assembly to accept the opinion reached by the investigations of the Court of Cassation; yet a few years ago the Assembly turned against the people in a notorious dictum to the effect that the Assembly, as "master of its decision," may accept the investigations of the Court of Cassation or not accept them.

Following this strange legal pronouncement, the Assembly has rejected challenges brought against many members, although investigations by the Court of Cassation, the highest judicial authority, have revealed that they won by fraud, error, or administrative interference.

So the people find themselves confronting a strange situation. A judicial authority pronounces an opinion, and a legislative authority rejects the opinion. Most challengers of election results have surrendered to this state of affairs created by "the master of its own decision." However, one candidate who did not win in the last elections, the lawyer Dr. Shawqi al-Sayyid, refused to submit. He brought suit for compensation, and the courts awarded him 50,000 pounds.

A few days ago the courts awarded another candidate, Dr. Hilmi al-Hadidi, former minister of health, 100,000 pounds in compensation because the People's Assembly refused to accept the report of the Court of Cassation that Dr. al-Hadidi had been deprived of victory in the election because of interference and fraud.

So we face a new situation. The principle of paying huge compensations to candidates injured in elections is established, but the People's Assembly refuses to acknowledge the damage done to them. The door has been opened to compensations that may amount to millions of pounds.

Naturally, no member of the People's Assembly will pay a single piaster to those awarded these indemnities. It is the taxpayers of Egypt who will pay.

The question is how long we Egyptian taxpayers are to pay the cost of errors committed by the "master of its own decisions."

Sidqi Discusses Economic Recovery Measures

NC2804104595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that Egypt has achieved economic recovery. He said: We have come a

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long way in liberalizing foreign trade, removing the restrictions blocking imports and exports, and reducing the deficit in the trade balance.

In statements to the Cairo newspaper AL-MASA' today, he added: We have achieved trade liquidity both domestically and abroad.

He said Egypt has progressed in the banking sector by liberalizing interest and foreign currency exchange rates to achieve its national interests. He said that every measure in liberalizing the banking sector is planned and implemented scrupulously.

The minister of economy and foreign trade, Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, said Egypt made good progress in liberalizing the banking sector. He added that in addition to government banks there are private and joint banks in Egypt.

Libya

Libyan, Algerian Officials Hold Talks in Surt

LD2404212995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture conferred at Surt this afternoon with brother Liamine Bechichi, minister of communications of fraternal Algeria, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by the brothers general secretaries at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, the general director of the Jamahariyah News Agency, JANA, the director of the General Corporation of the Great Jamahariyah Radio and the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahariyah. At the meeting, the means for bolstering the fraternal relations between the two countries' peoples in the information spheres were examined.

Brother Bechichi, the Algerian minister of communications, made a a statement to JANA upon his arrival. In it, he affirmed that his visit to the Great Jamahariyah so soon after the I-N-Amenas summit epitomizes the agreements reached at that summit and is an opportunity to coordinate the two fraternal countries' efforts in the information spheres.

The Algerian minister of communication praised, furthermore, the Libyan Arab people's great support for its brothers in Algeria during the struggle against French colonialism, insisting that this was the proof for the strong fraternal relations between the same people in the two countries.

Media Protocol Signed

LD2504172995 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Surt Al-Tayr [April] 25 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The protocol of the executive programme for media co-operation between the Great Jamahariyah and sisterly Algeria was signed in the city of Surt last night.

The protocol was signed from the Libyan Arab side by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture. For the Algerian side it was signed by brother Liamine Bechichi the minister for liaison in sisterly Algeria.

The signing was attended by the general registrar at the Secretariat of the General Peoples Committee for Information and Culture, JANA's director general, the director general of the Jamahariyah General Broadcasting Board, and the general directors at the secretariat.

From the Algerian side it was signed by Mohamed Essaidi the ambassador of Algeria to the Great Jamahariyah and Mahmoud Bayou the director of cooperation and administration at the Ministry of Liaison.

The protocol of the executive programme for media co-operation between the Great Jamahariyah and sisterly Algeria stipulated the enhancement of co-operation in the areas of tv and radio broadcasting through the exchange of tv and radio programmes, particularly those programmes concerning national festivities, the exchange of news bulletins, radio releases, the exchange of visits of experts and specialists in the tv and radio sectors.

The protocol also included the exchange of cultural and historical items on the progress of life in both sisterly countries, the exchange of visits by reporters to present news bulletins in each other's countries and the need to give prominence to each countries news.

The protocol also included the exchange of news bulletins between the two countries news agencies and the preparation for the necessary technical requirements.

The protocol also includes the encouragement and promotion of the distribution of newspapers, magazines and periodical bulletins through the co-operation of the concerned institutions in both countries and the coordination between the two sisterly countries in international conferences, in addition to the establishment of cultural centres in both sisterly countries.

Egypt Transports More Pilgrims to Saudi Arabia

NC2404122395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 24 Apr (MENA)—Egypt Air planes have continued to ferry Libyan pilgrims from the airports of Tripoli and Benghazi to the holy lands of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Two planes with about 1,000 pilgrims on board left the two airports today.

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The two planes will transport a new group of pilgrims from Tripoli airport to the holy lands this afternoon in accordance with schedules agreed upon between the air carriers of the two countries.

Envoy on Right To Travel Directly to Hajj

LD2204124195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1112 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 22 Apr, JANA—During his meeting in New York yesterday with Karlel Kovanda, ambassador of the Czech Republic and chairman of the current session of the so-called Security Council, the resident envoy of the Great Jamahariyah at the UN affirmed the Libyan Arab people's right in realizing their desire to travel from the airports of the Great Jamahariyah directly to Jeddah to perform this year's hajj duty.

He pointed out that the Libyan Arab pilgrims' trip to perform the hajj duty was a matter related to a sacred religious obligation, which was not connected with the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahariyah. He stressed that Islam called on the believer not to obey anyone other than God in his worship.

The resident envoy also pointed out to correspondents in New York that this issue neither concerned the so-called Security Council nor any country, and that Muslims throughout the world would not accept orders from anyone in connection with their worship and issues of their religion.

He warned against any attempt that might provoke the feelings of Muslims by way of preventing them from performing their religious rites.

Sanctions Committee Allows Increase in Pilgrims

NC2704152395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 27 Apr (MENA)—Arab diplomatic sources in Tripoli today said that Egypt has notified Libya that the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee has agreed to increase the number of Libyan hajjis [pilgrims] travelling on Egyptian planes, provided that flights will not exceed the previously approved number of 45.

The sources pointed out that there will be no maximum limit for the number of hajjis these flights will transport.

Egypt Air has so far operated 29 flights from Benghazi and Tripoli, transporting a total of 7,000 hajjis. The remaining 16 flights can transport another 4,000 pilgrims.

Sudan

U.S. Interest in Anti-Regime Action Reported

NC2704150195 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration recently informed an Arab neighbor of Sudan of its willingness to intervene in Sudan to overthrow Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's regime. The United States asked this Arab country to declare its support for this action and provide military facilities for U.S. troops on its territories. Washington proposed that this operation should begin in six months and offered to undertake all the necessary planning and to provide the necessary military forces.

Washington alleged that the Sudanese Government is posing numerous security threats and is allying itself with groups that Washington described as "terrorist" to spread chaos and instability in the region.

Washington also alleged that it possesses documented reports about the contacts between the Sudanese Government and Islamist leaders living outside the Middle East. It said that a fully integrated plan exists to allow the Islamists to seize control of all the region's governments.

AL-SHA'B has learned, however, that the concerned Arab country told Washington that such an operation would increase instability in the region and lead to greater Islamist influence.

Al-Bashir Views State, Presidential Elections

EA2204174395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, today at Friendship Hall addressed the opening session of Khartoum State's Council of Deputies.

He confirmed that the elections for Khartoum State's Council of Deputies had ended successfully. He said that consultations had become a social and religious value, and should be the foundation of our political and social system. [passage omitted]

He said that the areas which used to be marginalized were now seeing the construction of schools, health centers and roads. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed the importance of the supervisory and legislative role of the Council of Deputies. [passage omitted]

He also said that elections at the level of the presidency of the Republic would be held soon. [passage omitted]

Rebels Make Peace Overture to Rival Faction

AB2404204895 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 24 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, April 24 (AFP)—A splinter faction of southern Sudan rebels Monday [24 April] announced that it had sent a delegation to meet leaders of the main rebel movement to discuss reconciliation and possible military cooperation.

Riak Machar, head of the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), told a news conference here that a 14-member SSIM team, headed by William Nyuan

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Bany, had met John Garang, the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Eastern Equatoria on Sunday.

He declined to give the details of the talks between Bany and Garang, but said the discussions were held in a "cordial mood."

The SSIM delegation has been mandated to discuss strengthening the reconciliation and peace process, possible declaration of a permanent ceasefire between the two movements, and ways and means for for military cooperation.

SSIM broke off from the SPLA in 1991 after Machar and several other SPLA commanders accused Garang of dictatorship.

The rebels have been fighting for more than a decade to free the mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan from domination by the Moslem north.

Two Main Rebel Factions Sign Peace Agreement

AB2604170995 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 26 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two main southern Sudan rebel factions, Riak Machar's South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, and John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] have signed a joint agreement at a meeting in Nairobi. The two groups, whose mutual rivalry has weakened rebel opposition to the Khartoum government and who, on occasion, have even fought each other, declared the cessation of hostilities, a permanent cease-fire, and free movement of troops and civilians in the areas controlled by the rebels. Well, of course, we have heard similar declarations before but within days, it's all been back to square one. On the line to Nairobi, Robin White asked Riak Machar when the agreement would actually come into effect?

[Begin recording] [Machar] It is signed today in Eastern Equatoria, and it should come to force immediately.

[White] Since you have made similar declarations in the past, is this declaration worth anything, does it mean anything?

[Machar] Yes, it means a lot. It means that the two movements have reconciled. It means that the SPLA, which has not reciprocated before to the unilateral declaration of cease-fires, has now formally accepted the cessation of hostilities and the declaration of a permanent cease-fire and it means a lot that our people and our own troops can travel without fear in the areas controlled by the liberation movements.

[White] When are you going to get to grips with the crucial matter of whether you, Riak Machar, would recognize John Garang as the leader of the southern Sudanese rebellion?

[Machar] I think this is not the main issue. The main issue is that the two movements reconcile, have peace among them, and talk about unity.

[White] Could I ask you if in the interest of unity you would be prepared to step down and rejoin the SPLA?

[Machar] I think what the people of south Sudan want is to have a peaceful reconcilable atmosphere where they would debate democratically their issues. It is not personalities.

[White] That is not answering the question. Would you be prepared to stand down in the interest of unity?

[Machar] What form of unity do you want?

[White] It is clear that Garang himself would not step down, so, isn't it up to you to make some kind of gesture?

[Machar] I am not even asking Garang to step down from any position.

[White] But he clearly won't; so isn't it up to you to make some kind of gesture?

[Machar] I don't think it is the issue, Robin.

[White] So, what is going to happen now? Are there going to be more discussions between you and Garang? What's going to happen?

[Machar] I am hoping that Garang and I will discuss the remaining outstanding issues.

[White] When might that meeting take place?

[Machar] I am available. I am not sure. [end recording]

Tunisia

Reportage of Joint Committee Session With Jordan

Five Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD2704164195 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proceedings of the first session of the Tunisian-Jordanian joint higher committee were crowned with the signing of five cooperation agreements and the session's final minutes during a ceremony organized this morning at the government palace in Kasbah under the auspices of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui; and al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and defense minister in the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

These agreements are represented by:

The executive program for cooperation in tourism signed by Slaheddine Maaoui, Tunisian minister of tourism and handicraft; and 'Abd-al-ilah al-Khatib, Jordanian minister of tourism and antiquities.

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The executive program for cooperation in the sphere of agriculture signed by Agriculture Minister Mohamed Ben Rajeb; and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of state for council of ministers' affairs.

A cooperation agreement in the sphere of maritime commercial and ports signed by Transport Minister Mondher Zanaidi; and his Jordanian counterpart, Samir Qa'war.

A cooperation agreement in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical spheres signed by Trade Minister Slaheddine Ben M'Barek; and 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, Jordanian industry and trade minister.

A cooperation agreement for encouraging and protecting investments between the two countries signed by Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of international cooperation and foreign investment; and the Jordanian industry and trade minister.

Afterward, Hamed Karoui and al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir signed the final minutes of the first session of the joint higher committee. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Meets Ben Ali, Ends Talks

JN2704164895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received [Jordanian] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir. After the meeting, al-Sharif Zayd said he has conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn to the Tunisian president. The prime minister added that during the meeting, he reviewed with the Tunisian president bilateral and brotherly relations and ways to enhance them. Other Arab and international issues were also discussed.

Later on, the Jordanian side, headed by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin—Shakir, and the Tunisian side, headed by Tunisian First Minister Hamed Karoui, signed the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee. The meetings have yielded three agreements and two executive programs of bilateral cooperation. Addressing the final session of the committee, al-Sharif Zayd said the visit to Tunisia has supported the Jordanian belief in the similarity between the Jordanian and Tunisian peoples and in the most similar factors, he added, the ability of our two countries to convert the minor resources to means of power and development.

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Bahrain

Country's Difficulties, Iranian Designs Discussed

95LH0103A London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
5 Feb 95 p 13

[Article by Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Roots of Bahraini Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have known Bahrain as an island almost forgotten by the developments, considering that it enjoyed prolonged tranquillity. But, now, it is at the center of events.

There are two opinions on the confusing nature of the developments that have occurred in Bahrain. One opinion says that they have been planned abroad and that they should be tackled accordingly and, another opinion says they are a domestic problem and must be understood as such.

But Bahrain is not alone in experiencing domestic problems. Most of the other Arab countries from the remotest part of the ocean to the end of the Gulf are experiencing similar problems. Nevertheless, let us try to understand the "Bahraini problem" as it is, because this problem has its distinguishing characteristics.

In my opinion, domestic causes connected to the economic conditions began to pave the way for the problem. There is also evident and undeniable foreign exploitation of the domestic conditions. This exploitation cannot be denied, and its importance cannot be neglected. It is beneficial to talk about this country from the start.

Bahrain is a victim of the "Gulf image." Even though Bahrain is the neighbor to seven oil countries—the five Gulf states, Iraq, and Iran—it is not an oil-exporting country; i.e. it is the only Gulf country that has no oil.

Bahrain's misfortune has rendered Bahrain a service by making it seek its own options, which have distinguished it from others. It has become a financial service center; a tourist resort for the region; a center for transit flights; and the headquarters of a number of regional, Arab, and international organizations. The Bahraini people have also been aware of their compelling financial conditions and have worked for self-reliance. This is why Bahrainis have become known as serious scientific researchers. Bahraini people are among the world's most educated peoples. Education rate among males over the age of 15 is nearly 82 percent. Bahrainis are distinguished from their Gulf brothers by their respect for professions of all levels. There are Bahraini citizens who work in restaurants and kitchens without feeling inferior. This is something that distinguishes the Bahraini citizen from his brothers in the neighboring countries. While saying this, we must also acknowledge that Bahrain relies for its actual income on a socioeconomic structure tied to its geopolitical position. The birth of this country as an independent state and the fact that it was wrenched from the talons of the Iranian ambitions in the 1970's have burdened the Gulf states, which pledged to support Bahrain economically, politically, and in the area of security.

Bahrain has actually been and will continue to be the cultural reflection of the Gulf region, even though some people have reservations on some of its practices. If viewed within their social, political, and geographic context, it becomes evident that these practices have their justification. Bahrain has been greatly affected by the economic downturn that has hit the region since the mid-1980's; by the revenue decrease that has accompanied the drop in oil prices; and by the consumption of reserves designated for investment. As a market, Bahrain lives on the prosperity of its neighbors. But the neighbors have no prosperity, as we can see. It is normal that the increasing number of employment seekers, the decrease of opportunities, the decline in the region's revenues, and Bahrain's weak economic resources would have an impact on the people generally, and on the youth sector in particular. We should not forget to note an interesting point, namely that Bahrain is the most densely populated Arab country, even though the total population number is just one-half million people. The reason is the small area of the country and population density, which amounts to 745 persons per square kilometer. The economic root is like a migraine headache. It affects the political pulse by seeking to apportion blame and rebuke to causes that did not exist during the prosperity period.

The region's economic frustration has been coupled with a state of political turmoil that has included all the circles surrounding Bahrain, with Iran to the east and the Arab world to the north. This tension has its ramifications, especially to a small island like Bahrain.

As for the foreign cause that Bahrain says is behind the latest disturbances, it cannot be disregarded because of the fact that it exists.

We should not forget that Bahrain was historically a source of serious conflict between the Arab Gulf states and Iran in the shah's days. When Britain, which had controlled the island, decided to withdraw from Bahrain in 1970, the United Nations intervened and asked the Bahraini people themselves in a popular referendum: Do you wish to become an independent state, or do you prefer to join Iran? The United Nations asked this question because Iran claimed that Bahrain was one of its islands. The Iranian challenge went so far that the shah allotted Bahrain seats in his parliament.

The Bahrain people settled the crisis themselves, scoring a victory unprecedented in the Arab world. They decided that they are Arabs and that Bahrain would be an independent country under its current leadership. Iran held its tongue, but without forgetting its popular defeat in Bahrain. This is why it has not let the opportunity of the economic difficulties and of the disgruntlement existing currently pass without finding a place for its finger in it.

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Iran's ambitions in the Gulf waters have not changed since the shah's fall and the rise of the Islamic Republic. Iran completed its occupation of Abu-Musa Island in August 1992. This is the third UAE island Iran has occupied.

When the Gulf states raised their voices in protest to demand Iran's withdrawal and when the UAE threatened to resort to the international organizations, Iranian officials began to dig up the old story of Bahrain and some of them even dared to call it an Iranian island.

This is why Iran is accused of throwing its weight behind support for any opposition voice, trying to exploit the sectarian bond. However, it is beneficial to remember that Bahrain has experienced real peace that has prevailed among its people with their various sects.

Is Iran bargaining through Bahrain to pressure the Gulf so it can keep the three UAE islands?

Very regrettably, these are the features of the existing situation. Bahraini officials assert that they have the evidence to prove Iran's involvement in instigating some Bahraini citizens to rebel and engage in anarchic acts. If the fears of the region's governments and the Bahraini accusations prove true, then they herald the start of a war of instigation between the two sides. Iran is formed of a complex ethnic and religious makeup. The Sunnah there are persecuted, and the Azeri Shi'ites in the north are in disagreement with the regime in Tehran. This means that the Iranian regime is, if what is said about it is true, toying with a war that poses a greater threat to it than to others.

At the same time, some Bahraini officials acknowledge the economic problem, which is a characteristic of the entire Arab region these days. They also acknowledge the need to work for economic reforms. There is no doubt that the first bases of the expected reform are found in securing more employment opportunities. This may require reducing foreign labor, which holds one third the jobs. But such a step entails an additional risk to the country's economy. Further restrictions on foreign labor may cause foreign firms to steer toward competing regional locations, such as Dubayy. The issue is complex and the government faces the task of seeking solutions, regardless of how difficult they seem to be.

Bahrain will continue to be a model that merits respect because of Bahrain's ability to open up socially. The Bahraini people merit appreciation for their self-made success and their self-reliance.

Kuwait

NAM Agrees on Paragraph on Iraq-Kuwait Situation

LD2704220595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and planning minister, said that Kuwait's participation in the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference and the ministerial meeting of the Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Indonesia had taken place out of [its conviction in] the historic role played by the Nonaligned Movement in entrenching the principles of peace, stability, justice, and development.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, returning home tonight after leading the delegation of the State of Kuwait to the Bandung conference, said that the delegation of the State of Kuwait succeeded in adding a special paragraph concerning the situation between Kuwait and Iraq that was unanimously approved by the Drafting Committee despite the opposition of the Iraqi regime's delegation.

The paragraph says that Iraq needs to complete the implementation of all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions that represent the only means to create peace, security, and stability in the area.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs and planning minister added that the paragraph also contains the ministers' emphasis of the importance of a quick solution to the problem of the Kuwaiti POW's and hostages and other nationalities.

Oman

Request To Open Israeli Liaison Office Rejected

TA2704143095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 19

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oman—The Sultanate of Oman has affirmed that it will neither establish relations with Israel nor will it allow an Israeli liaison office to be opened in Muscat.

Haytham Bin-Tariq, the Foreign Ministry director general, said that his government had received a request in this regard but that it is adhering to its position, unless a fundamental development occurs in the peace process.

He added that the Sultanate of Oman supports the peace process and believes in the need to implement a comprehensive solution on all tracks.

Russian Energy Minister Arrives, Meets Officials

Views Ties With Deputy Premier

JN2704152695 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, today received Yuriy Shafranik, Russian fuel and energy minister, and his delegation, who are currently visiting the country. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and joint issues of interest to Oman and the Russian Federation, especially joint oil and energy projects.

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It is worth noting that Oman is one of the cofounders of the Caspian Sea Pipeline project along with the Russian federation and Kazakhstan. The Russian minister and the accompanying delegation briefed the Omani side on the topics they discussed during their recent visit to Iraq.

The meeting was attended on the Omani side by Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of oil and minerals; Salim Bin-Muhammad Sha'ban, under secretary of the Oil and Minerals Ministry; and a number of Omani advisers and officials. It was attended on the Russian side by the Russian deputy foreign minister, the deputy minister of fuel and energy, the deputy minister of foreign economic relations, and the Russian ambassador to Oman.

Promotes Ties With Oil Minister

JN2704145295 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official round of talks between an Omani delegation under Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of oil and minerals, and a Russian delegation under Yuriy Shafranik, Russian fuel and energy minister, was held at the al-Ghabrah guest house this afternoon.

The talks dealt with the promotion of relations between the two friendly countries and expediting cooperation on the industrial projects agreed to by the two parties, especially the first phase of the Caspian Sea Pipeline Project with Oman, the Russian Federation, and Kazakhstan. The Omani side stressed Oman's eagerness to continue the project and to lay down a timetable for financing and implementation operations.

Qatar

Defense Official Confers With U.S. Official

JN2704111195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 27 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for defense affairs and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today met with Arthur Hughes, deputy assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, currently visiting Doha.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said they discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to enhance and promote it in the military fields.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Addresses IMF Meeting in Washington

LD2704135595 Riyadh SPA in English 1237 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 27, SPA—The IMF's interim committee started a meeting in Washington on Wednesday and the Saudi delegation was led by Muhammed Aba-al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, the Saudi governor of the committee.

Addressing the meeting, Aba-al-Khayl welcomed the improvement witnessed by the international economy during the past year and the predicted improvement this year but warned that such positive trends could be endangered by the current disorder of the international exchange and financial markets.

He said the major industrialist countries, which lead the international economy with huge investments and economies, should shoulder the principle resposibility for restoration of stability to the international markets and that their passive stand might add to the problems being faced by the international economy.

He called all countries to cooperate with each other and try to maintain a flourishing economy.

Referring to the economic sitaution of developing countries, Minister Aba-al-Khayl said the Third World countries have a good chance to benefit from the current refreshment of the international economy despite the uncertainity engulfing the exchange markets that might negatively affect the economies of these countries.

He said increase of domestic savings would lessen the reliance of developing countries on short-term loans and investments and termed the direct investment as the best mean whereby developing nations could guarantee a long-term investment and increasing of production capacity, but, he added, this requires an stable world economy and an effective control on banking operations.

Aba-al-Khayl cited with pride the persisting efforts being made by the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to face up the negative economic implications triggered by the decline of oil prices and costs of the Kuwait liberation war. He assured the gathering on the successful efforts exerted for the recovery of the Saudi economy through the means of slashing state expenditure and increasing the non-oil revenues.

Minister Aba-al-Khayl said the above-mentioned efforts have led to reduction of the budget deficit to only three precent against the gross domestic product this year against nine percent in the fiscal year 1994.

The projected deficit in the current account of the payment sheet would go down by five percent against the GDP this year in contrast to 12 percent in 1993 and 8 percent in 1994, he said.

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Regime Reportedly Sends Force to Karkuk

NC2704164895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing a reliable source, KURDISTAN NWAY today reports that the Iraqi regime has recently transported the al-'Abid strong force of the so-called Republican Guard to the Khalid camp in Karkuk. The regime erected several checkpoints in the town and installed scores of heavy guns on Kurdish houses in Karkuk as a precautionary measure against the possible outbreak of antiregime acts of violence in the wake of its rejection of the UN Resolution 986.

The same source pointed out that the masses' indignation and wrath are on the rise as a result of the regime's rejection of the recent UN Security Council resolution. The source affirmed that the regime's troops are roaming the streets for bread because their wages are not sufficient to cover daily expenses. The source noted that the wave of desertions from the Army is severely increasing due to the high cost of living and the collapse of the economic situation.

The source told KURDISTAN NWAY that the regime's officials started to announce in public their indignation and refusal of the bad conditions as a result of the reckless policies pursued by the head of the 'Aflaqite regime. These officials are imposing payment of protection money on innocent citizens.

Kurds: Turkish Cross-Border Operation Fails

NC2604203895 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 26 Apr 95

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zakho, Iraq, April 26 (AFP)—Turkey's military operation in northern Iraq has backfired failing to wipe out PKK separatist guerrillas and even boosting their support among locals, foreign aid workers and Iraqi Kurds said Wednesday [26 April].

"The whole Turkish operation was a failure. The troops only looted the Kurdish villages. But the PKK still remain in the area and will get even stronger," 'Abd-al-'Aziz Tahib, the governor of the Dahuk, told AFP.

His words were echoed by Kurdish villagers and foreign aid workers.

Villagers from Darkar about 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Zakho said about 2,000 rebels from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) were still in the area.

Turkey pulled out five brigades of troops amounting to 20,000 men on Tuesday on the 36th day of its offensive following mounting international criticism of the operation.

"When the Turkish troops entered, the PKK went further east. When the Turks left, the PKK returned the same day," said Sabiri 'Arab, an official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), adding the reports had been confirmed by villagers and shepherds.

Even at the height of the Turkish operation PKK fighters freely roamed the area, UN guards and villagers said.

More than 35,000 troops were poured into the area backed by tanks and warplanes on March 20 in a bid to crush PKK fighters sheltering in the Kurdish-controlled region.

The PKK has used the area as a rear base from which to launch attacks in its 11-year bloody campaign to set up an independent homeland in southeast Turkey in which 15,000 people have died.

Arab agreed that some of the PKK camps might have been destroyed, but asked "what do you imagine by a camp?

"There are only a few mud houses, caves, woolen blankets and food stores," he said.

Villagers from Darkar, used as one of the main Turkish camps housing about 500 troops, said the campaign had only boosted their support for the PKK.

"The Turkish troops didn't distinguish between the PKK and the Iraqi Kurds. So why not support the PKK? Turkey will attack us again anyway," one said.

They also complained that Ankara had broken pledges to compensate villagers for any damage to their homes and fields.

Turkish Foreign Ministry official Mufid Oezdesh visited the area two weeks ago to hear complaints and promised compensation for all proven damages.

Villagers complained that 1,000 sub-machine guns belonging to KDP fighters from three villages had been seized by the Turks, and none had been returned.

"Instead the Turkish troops stayed all the time in our three schools, and destroyed their infrastructure," Arab said.

Class-rooms had been ransacked, and windows and doors mindlessly broken, he said.

The Turkish Army has said 505 PKK rebels and 58 soldiers have been killed in the operation, while Ciller announced a total of 838 rebels had died in the past six weeks in northern Iraq and Turkey.

Ciller has warned that Turkish Army could re-enter northern Iraq again to hunt down more PKK guerrillas if attacks in Turkey continue.

KDP Moves To Guard Border Zone, Stop PKK

NC2804064595 Paris AFP in English 0345 GMT 28 Apr 95

[Report by Tolle Aram]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Derkare, Iraq, April 28 (AFP)—Around 200 Iraqi Kurd militiamen have moved in to guard a border zone against Turkish Kurd separatists following the withdrawal of Turkish troops, a Kurdish official said.

Necirvan Barzani, a leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said Thursday [27 April] his group had deployed 200 men at Derkare near the border town of Zakho to guard against rebels from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The aim was "to prevent the PKK from passing through that strategically important gate from the northern mountains to Zakho," Barzani told AFP.

Derkare, 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Zakho, lies at the foot of a long mountain range behind which the PKK established strongholds in a remote valley region.

Some 500 Turkish soldiers backed by tanks guarded the area after Ankara launched its huge operation on March 20 to hunt down PKK fighters in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

The PKK has used the area as a rear base to launch attacks in its 11-year campaign to set up an independent homeland in southeast Turkey which has cost 15,000 lives.

Ankara has said it is banking on cooperation with Iraqi Kurds, especially the KDP, to stop infiltration by PKK rebels once all its troops are withdrawn from northern Iraq.

But Barzani stressed that the KDP was acting on its own initiative and had not been ordered to deploy by the Turkish army following the pull-out of one third of its troops on Tuesday.

"In fact, just as we were not informed when the Turkish troops entered, it was also a surprise for us when they left," he said.

The KDP's commander in Derkare, Muhammad Sindi, said more militiamen would be deployed in the future but the movement did not have sufficient finance or numbers to patrol the whole of the border area north of Derkare.

"Our orders are to defend ourselves if armed PKK forces appear. In certain cases it can even be us attacking them," Sindi said without elaborating.

He said Turkish troops were continuing to bombard PKK positions north of Derkare on Thursday.

Turkey pulled 20,000 of its soldiers out of northern Iraq on Tuesday. Some 10,000 soldiers remain.

The KDP has been locked in a year-old bloody power struggle with the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in which more than 2,000 people have died, according to Kurdish sources.

After a first massed armed incursion against the PKK in northern Iraq in October 1992, Turkey reached agreement with the KDP on policing of the border.

But the policing arrangement failed to work for a variety of reasons, including KDP-PUK clashes.

INA on Jordanian Islamic Front Condemnation of 986

JN2604190795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 26 Apr (INA)—Deputies of the [Jordanian] Islamic Action Front Party have condemned U.S. Resolution 986, which seeks to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and the dignity of its people.

In a statement issued here today, the deputies asserted that the new U.S. resolution clearly circumvents Security Council Resolution 687. Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 stipulates that the embargo on Iraqi oil should be lifted. The new U.S. resolution also violates the sovereignty of a UN member state.

The deputies said the U.S. resolution is an attempt to defeat and humiliate the Iraqi people, dismember them, plunder their resources, and strip them of their sovereignty over their land and resources.

Concluding their statement, the deputies urged Arab and Islamic states and free men everywhere to condemn this resolution and demand the lifting of the unfair embargo against the Iraqi people, who are facing death under the very gaze of the world.

Minister Receives Russian Writers Delegation

JN2704191195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has said that lifting the blockade imposed on the people of Iraq will enable Russia to implement a large number of major projects in various fields [in Iraq], something which would generate large revenues for the Russian people amounting to tens of billions of dollars.

Al-Sahhaf's remarks were made during a meeting here today with Sergey Ivanj [name as transliterated], first secretary of the Russian writers association, and his delegation currently visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Cultural Grouping.

Al-Sahhaf said that Iraq—people and leadership—are eager to maintain friendship and cooperation with Russia and to open avenues for developing bilateral relations in the service of both peoples' common interests.

The foreign minister reviewed the dimensions of U.S. Resolution 986, which aims to prolong the blockade and harm Iraq's national unity.

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Rabin To Propose Satellite Cooperation in U.S.

TA2704184395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Studio report by defense commentator Amir Oren]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hand the U.S. Administration next week updated information on the Ofeq satellite's plans. During his visit to Washington, Rabin will discuss Israeli-U.S. cooperation in the field of satellites. Our defense commentator Amir Oren gives us more details from our Tel Aviv studio:

Up to now, Israel has avoided sharing with the Americans the secrets about the capability and objective of Ofeq-3, which was successfully launched earlier this month. Since its launch, Ofeq has been transmitting high quality photographs, which permit, among other things, differentiating between different types of aircraft parked on runways. Prior to Rabin's visit to Washington, it was decided to suggest to the United States various ways to cooperate in the satellite field. One could be a deal in which Israel receives U.S. satellite photographs it needs and in return gets Ofeq to photograph sites of interests to the Americans, but which have not been receiving preferential treatment from U.S. information gathering systems.

Following Israel's success with Ofeq, Jerusalem is now preparing to ward off pressure on the U.S. Administration from U.S. companies interested in selling satellite services to Arab states. The activities of these firms have been restricted because they could have harmed Israeli intelligence. The Israeli team to face the Americans is being set up by deputy Mosad head Efrayim Halevi and a senior Defense Ministry official.

Rabin Apparently Decides To Run for Reelection

TA2704160695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 June, Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, will be given a newly-created post: The head of Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin's team to prepare the party for the 1996 elections. That means Sheves is leaving his job as director general of the Prime Minister's Office and will busy himself with Labor affairs.

It was stressed to me that the decision was made in coordination with Labor Secretary-General Nisim Zvili. In his new role, Sheves will focus on the prime minister's activities in Labor and will be responsible for the link between the prime minister's bureau and the party. The significance that can be read into the move is that Yitzhaq Rabin has probably decided to compete for the job of prime minister again. He will head Labor in the 1996 elections. To recall, for the first time in Israel, the elections will be held under a different format. There will be separate elections for prime minister and for the Knesset.

From 1 June, Sheves will be an unpaid adviser to the prime minister and head of the Labor chairman's team to prepare the party for elections.

Prime Minister Rabin, of course, thanked Sheves for his devoted public service, to quote the official announcement, which will be issued in the next few hours. Sheves has been with Rabin for 11 years. Rabin stressed in the announcement the special relationship of trust between the two.

Therefore the rumors circulating in recent months about a rift, a cooling down, in Sheves' relations with Rabin, and that he might go to work for Ramon, are wrong. Sheves will continue working very closely with Prime Minister Rabin. He has volunteered for a tough job: To try to get Rabin reelected in 1996.

A replacement for Sheves has so far not been appointed at the Prime Minister's Office. All names mentioned in the coming hours are pure speculation.

Rabin Comments on Sheves Appointment, Elections

TA2804111995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning referred to Shim'on Sheves' appointment as the prime minister's personal adviser. Rabin was asked whether this appointment is tantamount to an official announcement of his intention to run for the premiership in 1996. Here is his reaction:

[Begin Rabin recording] Absolutely not. It is related to the timetable of Labor's preparations and to my post as party chairman. I believe that during this period, and in anticipation of future party preparations and my own responsibility as party chairman, it is advisable that there be a liaison man. Sheves will not be a party employee, he will remain my personal adviser without receiving any salary. He will carry out voluntary liaison functions within the party as my representative. The party secretary general and party chairman continue to shoulder the responsibility for the party and its institutions.

It is my intention to continue implementing the objectives that the government itself set forth, first of all during the current term in office. As for the future, I obviously intend to continue in 1996. How long? Only time will tell. [end recording]

Labor MK Reacts to Sheves Appointment

TA2804083695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom said that Shim'on Sheves' new job is not

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a party appointment but is designed to terminate Sheves' employment in the Prime Minister's Office. According to him, Sheves is returning to his old job of assistant to the prime minister for political affairs. Merom went on to say that if Sheves goes to Labor Party headquarters he will find waiting for him there several cabinet ministers whom he has criticized in the past and who will now tell him what they think of him.

Interviewed on Qol Yisra'el this morning, Merom said he is not convinced that Minister Shim'on Peres agrees with party member Nisim Zvili's assessment that there will be no contest for the party's leadership if Yitzhaq Rabin decides to run in the next elections.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 28 April quotes Labor Secretary Zvili as saying that he "does not think the party's leadership will be contested if Yitzhaq Rabin decides to run in the next elections," and that "Rabin and Shim'on Peres have learned to coexist."]

At this point, Merom refuses to see Rabin as a candidate for the leadership of the party. According to him, this issue will come to the fore within a year, when Rabin's achievements are meticulously examined.

Shim'on Sheves told Qol Yisra'el this morning that he does not rule out the possibility of running in the Labor primaries. According to him, his new position—as Rabin's pro bono adviser and head of his party team—is meant to help the prime minister successfully conclude this government's tenure and to triumph in the elections in 1996.

4,400 Dunams of Arab Land To Be Expropriated

TA2804093395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent expropriation of more than 500 dunams (125 acres) of land in eastern Jerusalem is the first stage of a larger expropriation plan, deputy mayor Uri Lupoliansky said yesterday.

The municipality has also requested expropriations be carried out for Jewish housing projects near Pisgat Ze'ev and Gilo, Lupoliansky said.

He declined to give an overall figure for earmarked land. But from his past statements and municipal sources, it appears an additional 4,400 dunams have been so earmarked.

Areas earmarked include about 800 dunams near Pisgat Ze'ev, 2,000 dunams near al-Walaja village, 800 dunams near the Mar Ilyas Monastery, and another 800 dunams near Giv'at Hamatos, officials close to the plan said.

"The Arabs simply must understand that there are more Jews living in this city, and they need places to live," said Lupoliansky, who holds the building and planning portfolio at City Hall.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called the initial expropriation "a serious blow to the peace process."

"Israel continues in its activities that hurt the peace process," 'Arafat said. "The expropriation in Jerusalem is only the latest example of this."

Meretz ministers called for the expropriation process to be halted, and for the matter to be brought before the government.

"The wholesale expropriation of land belonging to Arab residents for the purpose of building or expanding Jewish neighborhoods is done with complete disregard for the housing needs of Arab residents of Jerusalem," Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said in a statement.

The Finance Ministry—the authority responsible for expropriations—at the beginning of the month published its decision to expropriate 335 dunams of land, most owned by Arab residents of Bayt Hanina.

Earlier this week, the ministry announced a second expropriation of 200 dunams, also nearly all Arab-owned, near Bayt Safafa.

Expropriation orders require the signature of the minister. Landowners have 30 days from the date of the announcements, which were printed in the Arabic press, to appeal.

Arab residents, however, have charged that the exact location of the land was not published, making it impossible for them to know whose land is being expropriated.

"We are not discriminating against Arabs," said Lupoliansky. "On my desk right now is a plan to allow for additional building in Sur Bahir."

Plan To Build Over 1,000 Apartments in Settlements

TA2804111295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 95 p A4

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Committee for Planning and Building in Judaea and Samaria has presented a plan to build 1,159 apartments and 26 public buildings on 394 dunams of land in the ultra-Orthodox town of 'Imanu'el in Samaria. The plan was prepared by 'Imanu'el's local council, and it is the first time such a plan has been presented in 1995.

Peace Now said in a cable sent to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that "the government is continuing its policy of expanding settlements. Peace Now calls on the government to order the immediate disbanding of the local planning and building committees, which are mainly manned by settlers hostile to government policy."

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Peace Now said that even if the plan is approved in the Judaea and Samaria planning committee it requires the approval of the committee dealing with exceptional cases set up by the government to deal with construction in the territories.

A separate cable that Peace Now's political secretary Moti Raz sent to the prime minister says that "members of the settlement of Na'ale in the Ramallah area plan to start building 200 prefabricated housing units next month, which are due to be completed this summer.

"The settlers claim that they have permission for the construction from former Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is hostile to the peace process. It is a continuation of the settlers' ceaseless efforts to put an end to the peace process you began," Raz wrote.

IDF Plans Redeployment To Create Enclaves

TA2704182395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has completed planning its redeployment in Judaea and Samaria and will be ready to implement it several months after receiving the order.

The general idea is to create autonomous Palestinian enclaves around the large cities. Commands and other bases, as we have already said here previously, will leave the cities, thereby creating six enclaves, which will be handed over to Palestinian policemen. Janin will be the first, and then Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah. Each will be expanded beyond the old Jordanian municipal boundaries, but without incorporating Jewish settlements, which will remain outside the enclaves. The Ramallah and Bethlehem enclaves will complete the redeployment. No decision has yet been made on Hebron. The Jewish settlement inside the town does not permit pulling the soldiers out of the town.

Some 120 million shekels have already been invested this year to fortify settlements. New fences, lighting for the fences, new gates, and other safety measures will be required due to their proximity to the Arab populated areas. The IDF will need another 70 million shekels to provide them. The IDF's evacuation will create more isolated settlements. Itamar, east of Nabulus, will be linked to Elon More by a new road. The fortifications, bypass roads, and security arrangements for traffic must be completed prior to evacuation.

The other problem is Jericho. The IDF is demanding a more determined, efficient effort against wanted men there before creating the enclaves. Jericho has been under the control of the Palestinian Authority for a year, with one policeman for every six inhabitants. Nevertheless, although everyone knows wanted men are in the town, nothing is being done to arrest them.

If evacuated, Nabulus could follow that model and become a haven for perpetrators of attacks or an easy base for staging attacks. Effective policemen are therefore a condition before the last soldier leaves Nabulus.

The IDF's redeployment plan is already worked out and has been presented to the political echelons.

A Palestinian enclave in Qalqilyah, so close to Israel's population centers, is the main reason for concern. Therefore, until the PA proves it can control the terrain and prevent terrorism from its areas, the IDF insists that the area cannot be evacuated. Negotiations will be held, but there will not be any evacuation until that is shown to be happening.

Arab Killed by IDF at Jerusalem Roadblock

TA2704180395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arab was shot dead by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] at the roadblock near Har Hadar in the Jerusalem hills while driving Arab workers. The dead man, age 50, is a resident of the village of 'Isawiyah. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the incident is being investigated.

Upgrading of Arms Talks To Increase Attendance

TA2804090095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Apr 95 p A10

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel will consent in principle to the Egyptian proposal to hold multilateral arms control talks at the level of foreign ministers, but it will append a condition—the participation of all the countries of the region. A decision to this effect was made at last night's discussion held by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the Israeli stand at the arms control talks and in the dialogue on the nuclear issue with Egypt.

The discussion was attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, head of the Israeli delegation to the arms control talks. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 April carries a related report by Alon Pinkas on page 3, adding that the participants of the meeting "reaffirmed Israel's position on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but according to an aide to one of the participants, both Rabin and Peres said the Arab pressure on Israel on the nuclear issue is bound to recur."]

Staff Chief Warns Against Long Closure, Threats

TA2504161295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Apr 95

[Report by Hadar Vismonsky from the Knesset—recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, the chief of staff, today presented the advantages and dangers of the closure on the territories before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. From the point of view of self-interest, Shahaq said, I feel better with a closure; it reduces the number of terror attacks inside Israel. At the same time, it does not prevent attacks against soldiers and civilians in the West Bank and Gaza. The chief of staff cautioned against a prolonged closure that, he believes, might cause the Palestinian Authority [PA] to collapse.

Referring to the Syrian issue, the chief of staff was just as grim. The Syrian threat continues to exist, he told Knesset Member Binyamin Begin who cited allegations that the Syrian Army is collapsing. This is far from reality, Gen. Shahaq said. He disclosed that the Syrians have upgraded their land-combat gear.

Shahaq's review of the situation in south Lebanon revealed a situation of daily war. The number of attacks there today is double what it was the same time last year, he said. Not a day goes by without an attack, which makes an average of some 60 attacks per month. The chief of staff believes that Hizballah will no longer tolerate the shelling of their villages in south Lebanon. He warned that it will be quicker on the trigger of the guns pointed at Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 25 April carries a similar report by Jack Katzenell which cits the chief of staff as saying: "Hizballah has a new policy. It says there are many casualties among its civilian villagers, and the Israeli chief of staff said he could not refute the Hizballah charge. But, while Gen. Shahaq believes South Lebanese Army [SLA] artillery attacks are responsible, he says that Hizballah is no longer interested in the difference. It will be quicker on the trigger both against the SLA and the Israeli Army, and the katyusha attacks at the end of last month on northern Israel could repeat themselves."

[Referring to the situation in the Gaza Strip, Shahaq said that "while he knows of talks between the PA and the opposition there, Islamic Jihad is complaining that it is suffering more than Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from the PA's crackdown on militants. Gen. Shahaq said Islamic Jihad has warned of the possibility of attacks against heads of the PA, while Hamas is looking for ways to reach understandings with the PA."]

Saudis Rescind Passport Demands for Pilgrims

TA2604050195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Saudi Arabia has backed down on its demand that Muslim pilgrims from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem enter Mecca on Palestinian passports. Reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem says the Saudis reversed their position because of a request from the Palestinian Authority and because of Israel's adamant position against issuing the passports. Pilgrims from the territories are to set out for Mecca tomorrow.

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Transportation Talks End With Palestinians

JN2604145195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Overland Transportation, formed in accordance with a cooperation agreement in the field of transportation and communications between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], concluded its meetings today at the Ministry of Transportation. The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, director general of the Ports Authority, while the Palestinian side was led by Engineer Mahmud al-Qawasimi, director general of transportation in the PNA.

Dr. Durayd Mahasinah spoke to our correspondent.

[Begin Mahasinah recording] The most important results of the meetings have to do with organizing transportation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PNA. We discussed details of transportation, using private cars owned by citizens, and collective transportation using regular bus trips between Jordanian cities and Palestinian cities. As you know, there are strong personal relations between citizens on both sides and they visit each other. Therefore, we had to organize transportation by using a simple and easy approach. We also discussed tourism. We want to promote tourism between the two regions. Finally, we discussed the ports, specifically the al-'Aqabah Port. They suggested using this port as a main facility for their exports and imports. We had no objection. In fact, we encourage this and we shall provide them with all facilities. Another important issue is that the Palestinian brothers and the PNA need a lot of help in developing their expertise in the field of ports and transportation. We have drawn up executive programs for this issue. It is a difficult mission, but we should begin. We have done that and hopefully this will happen shortly without complications. The implementation will take place once the two countries endorse the agreement. The cabinets and the two ministers of transport in the two countries should endorse it, and then it will go into effect and we can immediately begin implementation. [end recording]

House Speaker Receives Cuban Foreign Minister

JN2704181295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] House of Representatives Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur has received at the Parliament Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Benigno Perez, who conveyed to him a message from the president of the Cuban National Assembly of People's Power, expressing his thanks and appreciation as well as his keen interest to bolster bilateral relations in all fields.

During the meeting, al-Surur said that the Jordanian House of Representatives welcomes any proposals that will bolster bilateral parliamentary relations.

On his part, the Cuban Vice Foreign Minister praised the existing friendly relations between Jordan and Cuba. He said he hoped that bilateral relations will grow to serve the interests of both countries and peoples.

IAF Deputies' Condemnation of Resolution Reported

JN2704134795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Apr 95 p 30

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Deputies from the Islamic Action Front [IAF] have stated that UN Security Council Resolution 986 robs Iraq of its national rights, seeks to divest it of its northern governorates, and plunders its resources in the interest of the United States. In a statement issued yesterday, the deputies said that the U.S.-British project does not take into consideration the plight of the Iraqi people, which can no longer be expressed in words. They noted that this resolution ignores the fact that Iraq is an independent and sovereign state and is a member of the United Nations. The deputies consider this resolution—which is no longer convincing to most of the United Nations members—a persistent U.S. attempt to defeat and humiliate the Iraqi people, dismember them, and strip them of their sovereignty over their land and resources. The deputies urged Arab and Islamic states and free men everywhere—governments, parliaments, parties, and popular organizations—to reject and condemn this resolution and demand the lifting of the unfair embargo against 20 million Iraqi citizens who are facing death under the very gaze of the world.

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Fadlallah, al-Musawi on Attack, U.S. 'Mistake'

NC2804071195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that the Bint Jubayl suicide operation against the Israeli occupation forces showed heroic boldness and firm determination and gave the nation a new lesson, namely, that there is no place for the Jews inside our nation.

Commenting on the latest suicide operation, Fadlallah said: This suicide operation epitomized the spirituality of this hero. His was the ultimate sacrifice, a man turning himself into a bomb that exploded among the enemies of God so as to [word indistinct] their positions, weaken their morale, wreck their plans, and sap their spirit, thus unleashing the spirit of the nation.

Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, blessed the martyrdom of mujahid Salah Ghandur, something that brought some Lebanese out of their plush saloons and away from the politicians' selfishness, and introduced them to the arena of jihad and the fervent belief of the faithful. He stressed that martyr mujahid Ghandur eradicated the geographical security border of the occupiers and showed that the gate from the south to Palestine is now in the hands of the Islamic Resistance heroes and that the human Katyusha is more painful than the ordinary one.

Al-Musawi asked: Will the U.S. President admit America's mistake in Lebanon as former Defense Secretary McNamara admitted America's mistake in Vietnam? Will the Arab kings admit, like the ambassador of Jordan's king in occupied Palestine did, that the Jordanian people reject the settlement, that our nation has opted for the sword, and that the rulers' disregard for the nation's will can only lead to the fall of these rulers into the pits of remorse?

Hizballah's Qasim Discusses Resistance, Peace

NC2604094095 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 14 Apr 95 p 21

[News conference by Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, with unidentified correspondents at the Third Popular Arab and Islamic Conference in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] If, for the sake of argument, Israel agreed to withdraw from south Lebanon, would you stop the resistance operations? What are your conditions to halt the armed resistance?

[Qasim] Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon would be a victory for the resistance. But we will not give the Israelis peace of mind or any details, because Israel still occupies other neighboring territories. It is part of our duty to support all the brothers and their causes. Let Israel first withdraw from south Lebanon without preconditions. Then it will hear and see our position.

[Correspondent] Your answer is not enough. If you are afraid that Israel might get the details about Hizballah's plans, what about the Arabs who are entitled to know about Hizballah's planning and ideas?

[Qasim] I believe the Arabs who are interested in the details are aware. But in politics it is expected that the enemy should always remain upset and unaware of every issue's secrets and details, because this is part of the battle.

[Correspondent] What if Syria joined the settlement process? Do you not think that if this happens, your equation, the resistance and occupation, will lose one of its components? And what will the resistance stance be then?

[Qasim] First, we believe that reaching a settlement is something remote. Second, we do not think there will be a problem between us, as a resistance, and Syria, even if it presents the settlement in its plan. This is because the standard of our dealings and relationship with Syria are not governed by a transient state or one of the projects. Third, other details might surface later. Things are not so well or accurately defined that my answer can be comprehensive and precise. I rule out the emergence of any problem between the Resistance and Syria. God willing, time will prove this and you will learn everything eventually.

[Correspondent] What would happen if a deal was concluded between the Lebanese Government and Israel? Would Hizballah be disarmed?

[Qasim] I do not think that, given its weight and position, Hizballah could be a party to a deal. The Lebanese Government knows this very well. Nobody would dare make such a move.

[Correspondent] It has often been said that many Algerians were trained in your camps in Lebanon. Is this true?

[Qasim] We do not train others. We only train young people to fight against the Israeli enemy. When the leaders of any regime fail in something they blame Hizballah and say that Hizballah is responsible for training. I believe the Algerian Army is in charge of training. Many Algerians leave the army and start resisting the regime. So the Algerians need no foreign training.

[Correspondent] A certain status has been established in the region following the ratification of several peace agreements. It seems that other agreements will follow. But the main problem remains the presence of the Palestinian people, particularly in Lebanon. What is Hizballah's position toward this presence? And how does Hizballah view the Palestinians not enjoying any rights in Lebanon, particularly the right to work and own property?

[Qasim] We support the presence of the Palestinians in Lebanon as brothers until they return to their land. We are against settling them in Lebanon as an alternative homeland. We also accept giving them every civic right and the components to let them live with dignity. We reject anything that would keep them from returning to their land.

[Correspondent] Hizballah is today the largest political bloc in the Lebanese Parliament. What are the practical political

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steps to give Palestinians in Lebanon their rights, especially after the issue of resettlement was raised?

[Qasim] The issue of civic rights has not yet been decided. These rights are granted by the Lebanese Government, not by parliament. There are contacts and efforts but ultimately decisions are linked with a specific mechanism that is not readily available to 10 percent of the deputies. But deputies can create a particular atmosphere to help the Palestinians achieve their rights.

[Correspondent] You angrily walked out of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference in 1993, believing that your cause was betrayed. I would like to know why you returned to the conference this year.

[Qasim] The question is addressed in a provocative way with a view to creating an atmosphere that does not exist. We realize there are various viewpoints in the conference. When I discussed our participation in the conference, I explained that ideas and convictions are exchanged and joint agreements are reached. Participants are not required to leave the conference agreeing 100 percent on all the details. We hope the problem will be solved in this conference, God willing.

[Correspondent] Will Hizballah be inclined toward further political action at the expense of military action, especially after the party's parliamentary activity?

[Qasim] I believe that if there was a change, Israel would be happy now. Events have only added to the resistance. We became stronger after we entered parliament, and our military operations escalated. So talk of change is not accurate. Our scope of action expands whenever possible. If we can work in the political, social, cultural, and resistance areas, we will do it, very actively, God willing.

[Correspondent] You said there is a good relationship between Hizballah and Sudan. What kind of relationship is this? Is it military, political, economic, or all of these together?

[Qasim] It is a relationship of cooperation between one Islamic movement and another. In a cordial relationship, anything can happen, and nothing may happen other than the relationship itself. [as published] These are private issues.

[Correspondent] Concerning the liberation of the land, have you backed down on the theory of a full liberation of all Arab territories and all Lebanese territory?

[Qasim] We believe in the full liberation of every occupied land. We cannot relinquish a single inch of territory; resistance will continue until all the land has been liberated.

[Correspondent] Do you take a comprehensive view toward the liberation of Arab land or are you talking only about the liberation of Lebanese and Palestinian territories?

[Qasim] When we talk about occupied territories, we refer to the same occupation. Maybe emotions are stronger toward holy lands than toward non-holy ones but when we talk about liberation we do not differentiate. This, of course, is one cause.

Israelis Reopen Crossings in South, Shell Areas

NC2704201795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces today reopened the crossing points between the occupied border strip and the liberated areas. They were closed in the wake of the heroic operation that was carried out by martyrdom-seeking resistance man Salah Ghandur in Bint Jubayl Tuesday [25 April]. But human and material reinforcements were sent to those crossings, strict security measures were imposed, and travelers were harassed.

Before the Zummarayya crossing point was reopened, an extensive raking operation was carried out by three armored vehicles and about 20 elements from the militias of agent Antoine Lahd [South Lebanese Army]. The operation, which targeted al-Hasbani, Kawkaba, and Wadi Abu-Qamhah, continued from 0700 to 0830. In the same area, and as of 0600 today, a Lahdist unit erected a roadblock on al-Hasbani- Kawkaba road, and travelers were thoroughly searched.

While the atmosphere of caution and the state of alert in the ranks of the resistance continued, the security situation in the south remained cautiously calm except for a morning violation, when the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills came under intermittent artillery shelling at 0900. The Nab' al-Tasah basin, Mlita, and ('Aqmata) were especially targeted. At 1500, Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, and they launched mock raids.

Concerning the naval blockade of the southern coast, fishermen were surprised to hear heavy gunfire directed at their boats at 0200 today. They had already thrown their fishing nets in the sea near the shore. They were forced to escape leaving all their equipment behind.

The latest Israeli acts of aggression are in this dispatch from our correspondent Qasim Safa:

[Begin recording] At 1630, Israeli positions in al-Bayyadah and [words indistinct] shelled the outer parts of Kafra and Yatar using 155-mm artillery rounds. Security sources counted about 15 shells south of the two towns. The periphery of 'Ayta al-Jabal and Bayt Yahun were also raked by large- and medium-caliber machine guns originating from the occupation positions in Haddathah and Bayt Yahun. The Saff al-Hawa position was also reported to have carried out a similar raking operation in the area around it.

The same sources reported that an Israeli occupation gunboat directed barrages of machine-gun fire at the beach of the occupied al-Naqurah town at 1530. This was accompanied by helicopter flights over the targeted areas, especially over the valleys of al-Nafkhah, Sribbin, and al-Saluqi. [end recording]

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Lebanon's al-Hariri Reaffirms Continued Cooperation

NC2604162495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri will hold talks on the latest developments in the peace process with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam later today.

Al-Hariri arrived in Damascus from Paris this afternoon. He said that it is natural to continue coordination and intensive consultations with Syria, which has and is still standing by Lebanon. Asserting that Israeli aggression will not affect Lebanon's determination to regain its lands, al-Hariri stressed that Beirut and Damascus will stay united to reach a just and comprehensive peace.

Interior Minister on Space Channel, Peace Process

JN2704155995 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 19 Apr 95 pp 1, 11

["Text" of interview with Information Minister Muhammad Salman by unidentified correspondent of Kuwait AL-SIYASAH; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [AL-SIYASAH] We have heard about the Syrian space channel. It has been reported that the channel will start transmission in February. Can you tell us the reason for the delay?

[Salman] We have made all the necessary arrangements for launching the space channel. The delay is due to the unavailability of a free channel to transmit to the areas we want. However, a solution to this problem is near and we hope to launch the channel next month.

[AL-SIYASAH] In this fierce space channel war, the world has become a small village. What about Syria? Are citizens free to receive space channels through satellite dishes?

[Salman] There are tens of thousands of dishes in Damascus and other areas. We are now in the process of organizing the commercial space channels and then retransmitting the signals to citizens in order to protect and fortify them against certain material aired on commercial space channels which may run against their cultural, social, and spiritual values and which may be part of the concentrated foreign onslaught that targets the Arabs' culture, values, and originality.

[AL-SIYASAH] Let's move to politics for a while. Since the Madrid Conference, every now and then we hear about an imminent agreement between Syria and Israel. We also hear of secret talks. So far, we have not seen anything except that which was said in the Madrid Conference and which is now being repeated by the Syrian officials. Are these the Syrian constants, or has there been any change over these years?

[Salman] Peace for us is a strategic option. In view of this option, we supported the U.S. initiative that considered the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. However, in the Madrid Conference and the subsequent talks, Israel has intentionally been laying obstacles in the face of peace and evading the land for peace formula under feeble pretexts, such as security. Syria does not agree to have this pretext at its own expense, but security must be parallel [mutawazin], equal [mutasawi], and reciprocal [mutaqabil] on the two sides of the 4 June 1967 borderlines and within the context of its [Israel's] commitment to the principles and requirements of peace as specified by President Hafiz al-Asad when he said: Complete peace for complete withdrawal and the establishment of normal ['adiyah] peace relations. The Syrian position in this regard is firm and clear. We will not sign any agreements that encroach on our national dignity, fragment our internal unity, or abandon our pan- Arab constants, like the Oslo agreement which has produced a internecine feud within the same people.

[AL-SIYASAH] The Washington talks between the ambassadors of the two countries were crowned by a single meeting between the two chiefs of staff. Can one expect more such meetings in the future? Does the entry of the military into the talks mean the start of discussion of fine details to reach a final agreement.

[Salman] If Israel does not accept the principles on the security arrangements, the road will not be open for a new meeting between the two chiefs of staff. The recent tour by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace process, has not achieved what one would have hoped because Israel is sticking to demands that are unacceptable under international law. [passage omitted]

[AL-SIYASAH] There has recently been a lot of talk about tension in Syrian-Iranian relations. How true is this? Is Iran pressuring Syria, through Hizballah, to not sign a peace treaty with Israel?

[Salman] We have good relations with Iran. Iran supports the Arabs in regaining their rights. As for Hizballah, it is a Lebanese party struggling to liberate the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

[AL-SIYASAH] AL-HAYAH newspaper has reported that Syrian-Egyptian relations have been somewhat upset in the wake of the four-way Cairo summit. Do you have any comment?

[Salman] Fraternal Egypt has its stands and policies and acts accordingly. We deal with it on the basis of these policies and within the framework of our common issues. We constantly exchange viewpoints in a fraternal spirit and with the desire to enhance relations and take Arab action where it will serve our Arab nation. This nation needs, more than ever, to close ranks and work with a sense of pan-Arab responsibility.

[AL-SIYASAH] The ruler in Baghdad has always been a factor that has undermined Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf. Do you believe there is any chance for achieving a minimum level of Arab solidarity with the presence of this regime?

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[Salman] Saddam's regime has undermined Syrian-Iraqi relations and intra-Arab relations and made the Arabs, particularly the Iraqi people and economy, sustain huge losses. This regime has nothing positive to offer that may serve Iraq and the Arab state of affairs.

[AL-SIYASAH] Popular and official quarters continue to discuss the Iraqi people's tribulation, given that this tribulation is caused by the despotism of a dictator and the actions of a madman. Do you believe the lifting of the economic embargo on Iraq will bolster the Baghdad regime and allow it to resume its hostile designs against its neighbors?

[Salman] We distinguish between the Iraqi people and Saddam's regime, which has not taken advantage of any of the circumstances that have been made available to spare Iraq and the Arabs the calamities he has inflicted on them. We support ending the Iraqi people's tribulation, but the Iraqis are responsible for extricating themselves from the nightmare of Saddam's bloody regime, which has dispersed thousands, and sown death and destruction in every Iraqi home. This regime continues to inflict harm and destruction on the Iraqi and Arab people.

[AL-SIYASAH] A few days ago, news reports said that Syria had asked King Husayn to use his good offices to guarantee that Israel would not object to Syria's entrance into Lebanon and that the reply had been positive. What do you to say to this?

[Salman] Syrian forces went to Lebanon in response to calls by the legitimate Lebanese authorities and popular quarters to safeguard Lebanon's unity—land, people, and institutions. Syria did not go to Lebanon for any other reason than its concern over the pan-Arab stand and to defend the Lebanese with whom we share a common destiny. This was substantiated by events during the fighting in Lebanon and by the Israeli invasions of Lebanon over the past two decades. Our going to Lebanon was legitimate and with Arab League approval. As for our conflict with Israel, it goes back to before 1976 and continued after that date. This conflict will continue so long as peace is not attained on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel. The toppling of the 17 May 1984 Israeli-Lebanese agreement was part of this conflict in which Syria triumphed over Israel in Lebanon thanks to the close cooperation with the fraternal Lebanese people and their nationalist resistance. [passage omitted]

Radio: Israel 'Should Not Be Excluded' From NPT

JN2704154695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 40th anniversary of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] has coincided with the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. However, the relationship between these two events is much deeper and stronger than just a coincidence. This is because the NAM was, among other things, an expression of the human conscience which rejects the woes of nuclear war. The NAM has also exerted efforts to avert for humanity the catastrophe of falling into a nuclear inferno.

The NAM was a movement to support peoples' struggles against colonialism when many of the currently independent states were still the colonies of former empires. The creation of nuclear weapons was one of the major reasons behind the inception of the NAM. It should be recalled that the third NAM summit, which was held in Belgrade in the early sixties, formed committees that included the NAM leaders who, during the convocation of the summit, visited Moscow and Washington in an attempt to ease tension between the two states. This tension was threatening a catastrophe at the time. Moreover, the elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of broad peace zones free of nuclear weapons throughout the world is also one of the NAM's principles. This principle was always in the heart of its resolutions and statements in the sixties and seventies.

Now, 40 years after the inception of the NAM at the Bandung summit, 30 years after the Belgrade NAM meeting's initiative to ease the Cold War, and 25 years after the signing of the NPT, the world states that are not members of the so-called nuclear club are called upon to sign this treaty without any conditions, while Israel is excluded from signing this treaty. The current nuclear situation in the Middle East is similar to the world's nuclear situation even before the inception of the NAM. In other words, it is similar to the situation in the early fifties. In the mid-fifties, at the time of Bandung summit, the world was controlled by the balance of nuclear horror—a balance that prevented the use of nuclear weapons. However, there was only one nuclear power in the world in the early fifties. This situation continued to disturb the political, military, and intellectual circles in the world until a balance was achieved by the emergence of several nuclear sites; namely, by the balance of nuclear horror. The nuclear situation in the Middle East is almost this, meaning that what is required is that Israel is the only state which should have nuclear weapons. At the same time, all the Arabs, and, in fact, all the region's states, should not have nuclear weapons. Despite this, Israel calls this a security arrangement to reinforce peace. What kind of arrangements are these? What kind of peace is this in whose name the region is put under Israeli nuclear hegemony?

The Arabs do not want nuclear weapons or any of the weapons of mass destruction. The Arabs want to develop their industry and agriculture. They seek better living, health, and educational standards for the Arab citizen, instead of spending money on the mass destruction weapons. At the same time, the Arabs reject the preferential treatment Israel is given in this or other fields, for this preferential treatment does not constitute security arrangements to bolster peace, but a threat even to the peace process itself. From this premise, Syria's insistence on not signing the NPT if Israel does not sign it is an exercise of one of the rights of sovereignty. It is also an expression of Syria's determination to fortify its present and future against all the

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conventional and nonconventional dangers. This also expresses Syria's desire to achieve peace, which cannot be anything less than just, equitable [mutakafi'], and equal [mutasawi] regarding its security arrangements on both sides. Based on this, the Syrian stand toward the NPT enjoys great support from the Arab and Nonaligned states that insist that the NPT should be of a universal nature, that Israel should not be excluded from signing this treaty, and consequently, that the Israeli military arsenal should be cleansed of mass destruction weapons and the Israeli nuclear installations should be placed under international control similar to the nuclear installations of the other world states.

'Qualitative Leaps Forward' in Oil Production

JN2704191595 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Khalil Aqtayni]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Hasakah—A few days ago, the Syrian Oil Company held a meeting of its Production Council at the al-Jibsah Oilfields Directorate under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Khaddur, general manager of the company. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Shakir Husayn, head of the Provincial Workers Bureau; Sulayman Jinah, head of the Provincial Economic Bureau; the president of the workers federation in the governorate; and several officials and directors of the oil and gas sector in the company.

General Manager Khaddur opened the meeting with a comprehensive report in which he reviewed the great development and progress that has taken place in the oil sector under the March Revolution and its glorious Corrective Movement. He affirmed: This sector has made qualitative leaps forward, and here are the figures that speak about this great structure throughout its long march: We have produced more than 200 million cubic meters of oil, dug more than 4 million cubic meters in 2,000 wells, and discovered 35 oil and gas fields. This is in addition to the construction and service projects that have been carried out in all the areas in which we are operating.

Dr. Khaddur explained that the company employs 12,000 workers and operates 20 drills and two gas plants, in addition to several other stations. He added: We are currently implementing very important projects for the future; mainly, the central region gas project for the production of 6 million cubic meters of gas, the expansion of al-Jibsah gas plant, the transportation of gas from al-'Izziyah and al-Jafra to al-Tayyim, and the gas project in the northern part of the central region. Our production of gas is currently 8-9 million cubic meters a day. These figures will be doubled in the next few years. In recently years, we have made a qualitative leap forward in modernizing our work methods by introducing modern technologies. Regarding drilling capabilities, we have reached a depth of 5,700 meters. We have been successful in drilling several wells horizontally. The credit for all this goes to our national cadres who have grown and developed in the school of the symbol leader Hafiz al-Asad.

Dr. Khaddur continued: Under the revolution and the glorious Corrective Movement, our oil production has reached more than 600,000 barrels per day. This is the first time we have reached this figure, and we have great ambitions to make more discoveries. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Approves 1995 State Budget Law

JN2704132495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The People's Assembly approved the 1995 general state budget bill at a session held today under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. It totalled 162.04 billion Syrian pounds, including 87.941 billion Syrian pounds for current expenditure and 74.990 billion Syrian pounds for investment expenditure.

Attending the meeting were Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs.

Some assembly members discussed chapters of the budget and the finance minister clarified some points. The assembly then approved these chapters as presented. The budget articles were then read one by one and were approved by the assembly. The budget has thus become a law. [passage omitted]

The session was adjourned until 1800 on Monday, 15 May.

Sixty Transport Companies Suspended for Violations

JN2704155295 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Usamah al-Hashimi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The People's Assembly has discussed several issues pertaining to the Ministry of Transportation, especially the violations that have been committed by certain transport companies licensed under Law No. 10 that signed contracts selling cars to citizens. Transportation Minister Mufid 'Abd-al- Karim has said in his reply to the assembly: Every sale of this kind is invalid. A sales contract that is signed by both sides is null and void. All means of transport covered under Law No. 10 cannot be sold, and any sale that takes place is null and void.

The minister explained that the ministry is closely following this matter and that it issued a decision recently suspending 60 companies that are covered under Law No. 10. [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

Taleban Reportedly Downs Jet, Releases Prisoners

LD2704183195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the mediation of ulema from the northern regions, the Taleban movement has released 300 prisoners of the National Islamic Movement. This point was revealed last night by Mola 'Abdol Manon Niyazi, a spokesman for the Taleban, in the course of an interview with the Radio Voice of America.

He said: Yesterday our heroic Taleban shot down a jet aircraft of [Herat Governor] Isma'il Khan with a Stinger missile. He added that Farah and Nimruz provinces are under the control of the Taleban forces; and their forces are also stationed in the districts of Wardak, Maydan Shahr, Arghandi, Lowgar, and a section of Chahar Asiab. He also added: The Taleban forces are now engaged in fighting against Isma'il Khan forces around Shindand airport.

Russia Proposes Mediation Between Dostam, Rabbani

LD2704183395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the course of an interview with the BBC, General Mohammad Yosuf, a commander of the National Islamic Movement, has confirmed the recent visit to Moscow by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. This visit has taken place at a formal invitation by the Russian Parliament.

Regarding a meeting between General Dostam and Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, a representative of the Shura-ye Nazar [Supervisory Council], he [Gen. Yosuf] said: This report is not correct. He added: A proposal has been made by the Security and Defense Committee of the Russian Parliament on mediation between the Kabul administration and the National Islamic Movement, which Gen. Dostam is now considering. [words indistinct]

Pakistan Sends Congratulatory Message to Kabul

LD2704201195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari sent the following congratulatory telegram to Kabul on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, addressed to President Borhan-oddin Rabbani:

It is my pleasure to send to your Excellency and the fraternal people of Afghanistan my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the auspicious day marking the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan.

The government and people of Pakistan sincerely wish the end of conflicts and fratricide in Afghanistan, and hope for the realization of national reconciliation and formation of a government with broad bases in accordance with the wishes of the people of Afghanistan.

Our countries and our people have deep historic, cultural, and religious ties and these ties have further been consolidated after the victory of Jihad and the restoration of Afghanistan's independence. We are trying to broaden these fraternal relations for further prosperity of the two country's people and for the stability of peace and security in the region. Please allow me to express the best wishes of the people of Pakistan for the consolidation of fraternal relations with the brave people of Afghanistan. May I take the opportunity to express my country's support for revival and [word indistinct] and for the program of economic reconstruction of Afghanistan.

India

Rao Unveils Super Computer System

BK2304152295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister unveiled the (?pace) plus parallel processing computer in Hyderabad today. It is the fastest indigenously developed computer system in the country and has been built by the Defense Research and Development Organization's advanced numerical research and analysis group.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Narasimha Rao highlighted the importance of information technology revolution for the country and stressed the need for self-reliance in advanced technologies. He complimented the scientists and engineers on achieving this significant technology success.

The computer described as the super system with a speed of 1,000 million points per second will be useful in geophysics, image processing, and molecular modelling. Our Hyderabad correspondent reports that the super computer technology has now been transferred to the private sector also. With this, the country is poised to emerge as one of the leaders in the super computer systems in the world.

'Plot' To Kill Leaders in Kashmir Detected

BK2304134895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 23 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police has unearthed an ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] plot to kill prominent political leaders in the state to scuttle the election process. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that an arrested militant, Mohammad Sadeq alias Shera, has confessed that he was assigned the task of killing three senior political leaders. He said he was promised five lakh rupees by the ISI for each killing.

Significance of Rafsanjani's Visit Viewed

BK2604132695 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by Rakshat Puri under the "Midstream" rubric: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani and South Asia"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to India last week was significant for a number of reasons. The US administration is not, to all appearances, happy at the visit—even though one of the important results was a tripartite agreement among Iran, Turkmenistan and India for relatively easy Indian access to Central Asia. This agreement should to some extent lessen American fears of "Islamic fundamentalism" influencing the Central Asian countries. The US has from all accounts sought to utilise a wiling Pakistan's "moderate Islamism" for this purpose.

Among the "fundamentalist influences", the most potent in the American view comes from the so-called "outlaw" state of Iran. Much worse, in the American view: Iran is, in addition, seeking to develop its own nuclear capabilities. American Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, whose visit to Delhi coincided with Rafsanjani's, openly expressed Washington's displeasure at the Iranian President's visit. As if the Washington administration had not been advised by the US embassy in Delhi about Rafsanjani's long publicised visit, Rubin stated for the record that his visit would have been rescheduled "if we had known about it in time". The leaders in Delhi must thank Washington, if they haven't done so already, for enabling them to show they can act independently.

Rubin's displeasure was being expressed even as the United States was objecting to China's negotiating a deal with Iran for supply of two atomic reactors and relevant know-how. Not too long ago, there was much talk in Teheran and also, from all accounts, in Bejing, about the need of some kind of political arrangement among Iran, China and India. At his Press conference Rafsanjani touched only casually on the possibility of such an arrangement, and this time included Pakistan. Rafsanjani's casualness ought to help disabuse the minds of those in India who were taken in by visions of a get- together with China. Indeed, Turkmenistani Foreign Minister Muradov's suggestion, at a lecture last week, that India should be a member of the Economic Cooperation Organisation [ECO], seems much more relevant. ECO members include Pakistan, Iran, most Central Asian states and Turkey.

It needs to be understood in Delhi that, in the Chinese world- view. India is a potential rival in Asia. For all the sweet talk emanating from Beijing about Sino-Indian rapprochement and friendship, there ought to be no doubt in any Indian quarter that Chinese actions will not coincide with its sweet talk—except tactically. Chinese appeals for peace and unity in South Asia even as Beijing arms, equips and implicitly encourages Pakistani divisiveness in the sub-continent are telltale.

It is in this content that the most significant statement made by Rafsanjani during his visit must be appreciated: his plea for consolidation of ties among India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. No matter what his previous views on subjects such as militancy in Kashmir and the Ayodhya mosque-razing by "Hindu" zealots, his present observation, that in the prevailing situation there is no alternative to a confederal arrangement among the three South Asian countries, is urgent and compelling. Both India and Pakistan need immediately to think upon and keep in mind certain realities that obtain.

Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif may continue to harp—for domestic consumption—on Kashmir being a "core issue" that must first be settled before any move towards peace is possible. It cannot be settled in the way they want except by open war. Terrorist violence of the kind let loose in Kashmir, obviously with more than merely more support from Pakistan, has not so far achieved anywhere the results for which it is ostensibly launched. Consider the examples of recent terrorist activity—Kurd, Arab, Spanish, Irish and other.

On this side of the Line of Control it is the Kashmiris themselves and the Delhi leaders who will have to talk and arrive at an understanding. And the Government in Delhi will have to deal democratically with the Kashmiri militants and dissidents—election or no election.

On the other side of the Line of Control it will have to be the Kashmiris there and the Islamabad leaders who must talk and come to an understanding. Indeed, there seems really no alternative to the Indian and Pakistani sides agreeing, for the present, to treat the Line of Control, with possibly some stopgap adjustments, as an international border. No third party intervention or mediation, as suggested by Rafsanjani and Clinton, can bring a lasting settlement: the party that feels disfavoured will bide its time.

Benazir Bhutto has renewed—notably, on her return from the United States—an offer of "substantive" talks during Pakistani President Farooq Leghari's visit to Delhi for the annual summit-level SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting. It would be a historic achievement if the offer were not intended merely for domestic and foreign propagandic effect, and if both sides climbed down from their old and barren positions to carry South Asia to its destined role as a world power centre. Delhi, Islamabad and Dhaka will have to achieve this position working together themselves.

Should coming events provide a clear and positive trend towards such a resolution of problems, towards unity and peace among the South Asian countries, Rafsanjani's visit will be seen by future historians as a turning point in world power placements.

Editorial on Need For Increased Defense Spending

BK2704103895 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 26 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Our Defense Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the information published by the International Strategic Studies Institute regarding Chinese strategic and defense strength is quite important for the rest of the world, it has special significance for India. Notwithstanding the beginning of the process of re-establishing friendly relations between India and China, friendly relations are still a distant possibility. China

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already occupies a large amount of Indian land and continues to claim other territories. Under the circumstances, the growing strategic strength of China definitely has an adverse effect on Indian security. China is already a major nuclear power, and according to the institute's assessment of the next 15 years, its nuclear power will grow massive enough to even challenge U.S. supremacy in this area. Similarly, the way China is developing its submarines together with its intercontinental missiles, it will soon approach U.S. strategic capacity for war. What should India do? The state of defense preparedness is woefully inadequate now, especially in light of the increasing Chinese military might. If India does not encourage missile production and fails to deliver the domestically developed missiles to its Army, its defense is likely to become weakened further. It would be highly damaging to Indian security interests if, wilting under U.S. pressure, the government fails to give the Army those missiles. Weakening defense preparations in the face of pressure from any other country—whether it be the United States or anyone else—cannot be justified by any stretch of the imagination as it has a direct bearing upon national security.

It is rather surprising as to why the United States is exerting constant pressure on India to keep its defenses limited. Although India has not fully wilted under this pressure, its effects are apparent in the hesitation by the government to deploy the missiles developed by Indian scientists. This is certainly most improper. As far as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is concerned, India is not prepared to sign, while the United States wants India to accept it as it is. Of course, India's refusal to sign does not mean support for the proliferation of nuclear weapons. If Pakistan continues its nuclear program and China continues developing its nuclear arsenal, India cannot afford to be idle. It has been offered that if India would agree to enter into a defense treaty with the United States, the pressure could be withdrawn. This defense treaty, or acceptance of the "security umbrella" against any possible nuclear attack, is not favorable to our security interests. Agreement would not only create an imbalance in the international balance of power, but may also lead to the re-emergence of something like the Cold War.

As a matter of fact, India must review its defense policy afresh and continue to earnestly modernize the three elements of its defense forces, which is not expected now. Perhaps the lack of sufficient economic resources is the reason behind this process. It is true that India lacks these resources, but can we afford to be negligent in modernizing our defense forces for this reason alone? This matter concerns our national security, and gross negligence can lead to many crises on the defense front. Earlier we were getting enough Soviet aid with defense preparations, but after the collapse of the Soviet Union Russia is in no position to render any help. Also, we should not forget that Pakistan has had many defense agreements with China. India must seriously consider how to address this China-Pakistan alliance. In the meantime, there ought to be debate in the Parliament on the prospects of China acquiring more and more military might, as revealed by the report published by the International Strategic Studies Institute, even more so because this revelation has a direct bearing upon our national security and hence future generations.

Iran

U.S. 'Propagandist' Policies Said 'Neutralized'

NC2704201095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis" column: "The United States Has Once Again Suffered a Blow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The lucid, logical, and cogent message by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this week was reflected on the international scene in such a manner that it neutralized all of Washington's propagandist plots.

On the one hand, the Beijing and Moscow echelons delivered a negative response to the domineering and malevolent policies of the United States and clarified that they would continue their cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and honor their commitments. On the other hand, Washington was completely amazed when it realized that the oil and economic embargo on Iran would not yield any results and Islamic Iran would terminate its economic relations with the United States whenever it so decided and deemed expedient.

The fact is that Washington imagined that its games with some U.S. oil companies would prove an appropriate lever against Iran. However, after the annulment of the CONOCO agreement by Clinton and efforts for an oil embargo against Iran, the categorical statement issued by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani proved to be the last word and Washington realized that it would be the real loser in its disgraceful political-propagandist game against Iran.

As for what Washington's next step will be, it is not very clear but it is obvious that our actions should continue in the direction of the absolute negation of all kinds of domineering and extortion by the United States. If it continues its squabbling and plotting, it will suffer a blow once again.

Majles Official on U.S. 'Misconceptions'

LD2604164095 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Majlis (parliament) Mohammad Javad Larijani told visiting envoy of Australia's Foreign Ministry, Robert Larry, here Wednesday [26 April] that Iran looked forward to a world situation free from tension and unrest.

He said the American officials had misconceptions of Iran and that their own definition of the interests of the United States was illogical.

Larijani observed that the Americans were finding themselves trapped into a propaganda campaign that they had themselves launched (against Iran) and were now compelled to live with it.

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Larry is the director of Middle East and North African Affairs at the Australian Foreign Ministry.

Rafsanjani Says U.S. Embargo Will Fail

LD2804104595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today's political and religious Friday prayers were attended by the hezbollah masses throughout the country, shouting the slogans: Death to Israel! Death to America!

The God-seeking people of Tehran offered their prayers 40 days following the death of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the pure shrine of Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the republic.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani devoted his first sermon to exposing the aims of the reactionary incitements of world arrogance and Zionism in confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran and the need for alertness in the face of the enemy's plots.

The interim Friday imam of Tehran said one of the aims of the United States and the Zionist regime in intensifying their psychological warfare is to dishearten the people and create a feeling of hopelessness about the future of the Islamic revolution. He called on the public, especially writers and personalities in the media, to be more aware of this trick.

He said: We should not give the enemy an opportunity to misuse our words and writings and to disappoint our people with complicated psychological warfare. According to Imam Khomeyni's and the great leader's fatwas, disheartening the people is a great sin.

On the people's awareness about the aims of the enemy in launching a propaganda campaign, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Muslim people of Iran are on the various scenes of the revolution, just as in the early days but more deeply and in a more calculated way. They are defending their revolution. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the people's awareness of the objective achievements of the revolution, he said that following the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, the country's resources were devoted to the country's reconstruction and the implementation of important projects. Addressing a number of writers and media personalities, he said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] This revolution cannot be isolated in this way. You honorable people who are in Iran, do not let them feed on your negative remarks and through evil propaganda give the impression to Muslims outside [the country]—they cannot do anything inside—that the government and people are distanced, that the people are disheartened, and so on.

This really is a sin, it is a tyranny against a people who have been outstanding in the face of difficulties. It is a sin to say that they are disheartened. What are they disheartened about? Their revolution? The people have loved Islam, the revolution, and the imam [Khomeyni], and they still do. The people understand that they have been freed, they understand that they have become independent, they understand that their country is being reconstructed. They know they are on the right path. And if there are difficulties along the way, they tolerate them with all their being. In fact, we had a revolution in order to tolerate difficulties, we knew a revolution would have difficulties but God did not want us to have many difficulties. God helped this nation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued his second sermon by referring to the anniversary of the Tabas incident [in 1980]. He said: The mass media should not allow the United States' defeated conspiracy at Tabas to be forgotten, because our victory at the time was indeed a miracle.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to acts of mischief by the United States since the outset of the [Islamic] revolution, and added:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] At that time you were embarrassed in Tabas, but now you are going to suffer embarrassment on the world stage. This time, you have started a move which you imagine will isolate Iran. The Iran of the post five-year plan cannot in any way be embargoed. Your information is obviously not enough. You should see for yourself what Iran is like today. You should see for yourself that Iran can no longer be paralyzed by means of sanctions and embargoes. You should see the Iran which is self-sufficient in its food supplies, all its industries—including the oil, gas, petrochemical, military, mines, and steel sectors—agriculture, construction, and raw materials, and an Iran which has no foreign advisors among its manpower. How do you propose to embargo this country? Even if you close all the gates and doors to this country, it can still manage by its domestic resources.

What I want to say is that you cannot undermine a land like Iran which is the center of the world today. God is with us. At the advent of the revolution, God gave victory to the revolution by creating fear in the hearts of the enemies. So far, God has kept this fear in the hearts of the enemies, thereby preventing them from harming this revolution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Commentary Sees U.S. Boycott as 'Vulnerability'

LD2704152695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton and the entire officials of the U.S. Administration are under great pressure of internal conflicts. The owner of the Coastal Oil Company, in a letter addressed to Clinton, while sharply criticizing his administration for ignoring the national interest of America, has termed the oil boycott of Iran as a mistake. He has declared: Should the White House continue

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its policy on the oil boycott of Iran, his company would transfer its headquarters outside the U.S. judicial jurisdiction.

In the opinion of political experts, this reaction posed a serious threat to Clinton and the democratic party in the U.S. presidential elections set for 1996. It has also amazed and worried the White House rulers.

The Coastal Oil Company chief claims that the U.S. oil companies view the present policy of the Clinton administration to be in line with the political interests of the Zionist regime of Israel. This is under conditions when the commercial, oil, and industrial companies believe that their interests demand that they consider America's national interest in rivalry with the big powers and major economic companies of Europe and Japan. The Zionist circles' control over the U.S. ruling clique has led to an open reflection [as heard] of confrontation with the supporters of the national interest of America and the advocates of the Zionists. Such a conflict can lay significant impacts on the U.S. society. Both the Republicans and the Democrats, in order to gain popularity of the public opinion in view of the next presidential elections will have to adopt a more evident posture, and it appears that the continuation of the traditional policy reliant on the Zionists, will entail their failure.

In recent years all opinion polls have shown that Americans are strongly inclined towards independent candidates and are fed up with the policies of the two main parties. The present atmosphere undoubtedly prepares the ground for the growth of such tendencies. The more important issue is that the oil boycott of Iran by the U.S. ruling clique, instead of pressurizing Iran, is indicative of the vulnerability of the U.S. Administration. The reason is that, basically, under the present conditions in the world and in view of the economic structure and political ties of Iran with the world at large, such sanctions would prove ineffective only indicating political confrontation rather than a broad-based international economic action. The big problem of U.S. statesmen, as observed, is in their improper and unrealistic discernment of international realities which they have repeatedly experienced. And the current internal conflicts in America show that the experience has once again been put to the test.

U.S. Executive Order Led to Lost Oil Deal

LD2704202495 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—The policy of the United States' Adminstration, turned the CONOCO oil deal with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) into an executive order and the company was forced to obey the rule, CONOCO president, Constantine Nicandors complained.

Nicandors in an interview with Platt's newspaper said the contact with Iran was fairly well checked and there were a lot of meetings with Amercian officals in this regard.

"We proceeded according to the law and it was indicated every thing was fine," Nickandors added.

"CONOCO is not finished with the Siri Island deal and our pledge for completion of the project remains unchanged" he said.

Meanwhile Platt's newspaper quoting Dupont company president, Edgar Woodlard added that in relation to the oil deal with Iran, CONOCO officials had held 30 meetings with State Department officials during three years of negotiations on the Siri deal.

Following the cancelation of CONOCO oil deal, Iran reportedly is talking with other foreign companies.

The American administration's decision to ban trade with Iran is hurting the United States and has drawn complains from American businessmen.

NIOC Talks With Oil Companies About Sirri Fields

LD2704205395 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Talks were held between the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and 'Shell' on expansion of 'A' and 'E' oil fields off the Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf, the Oil Ministry public relations office disclosed here on Thursday [27 April].

The office said NIOC is also busy holding talks with French 'Total', Indonesian 'Petronas' and several other companies on expansion of two important fields. A representative from Shell is expected in Iran for the same purpose, he added. According to the report, the trend of the talks was "satisfactory" and would bear fruits in the next two months. The office underlined that Iranian companies, being a party to the talks, enjoy proper conditions for the said deal and that there were possibilities for handing the projects to them.

The oil fields, discovered between the years 1972-1976, are expected to yield 120,000 barrels of oil per day.

Earlier, NIOC had held talks with the American Conoco company for expansion of the fields, which led to the inking of a buyback contract in early March. However, U.S. President Bill Clinton issued an executive order, forcing cancellation of the contract.

Based on the contract, Conoco had undertaken laying of pipelines to inject natural gas, gained from the fields, to oil fields in Dubai.

Official Views 'Shameless' U.S. Economic Pressure

LD2804082695 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.), April 28, IRNA—Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Reza Golpayegani here Thursday [27 April] called the recent U.S. economic pressure against Iran as shameless and underlined the support of the higher educational community for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's stance in this regard.

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Golpayegani said the U.S. Government will once more experience defeat from the strong will of the Iranian Government and nation.

Golpayegani is currently here to take part in a 2-day meeting of heads of iranian universities and research centres.

Implications of Oklahoma Explosion Examined

NC2704211795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Apr 95 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The United States, Cradle of Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The toll from the massive explosion of the nine-story federal building in Oklahoma has risen to 150 killed and many wounded so far. Once again insecurity has gripped the United States on an extensive scale. According to U.S. security sources, the bomb that was detonated in this building contained at least 500 kilograms of T.N.T. [preceding acronym in English].

The U.S prosecutor-general has announced a $2 million reward and the police are on alert in Washington and in most of the states in the country.

Actions such as the explosion in Oklahoma which resulted in the death of thousands can certainly never be justified or endorsed. In any case, by propounding fallacious hypotheses, the U.S. Administration cannot divert world public opinion from the roots of the crisis in which it is mired. U.S. news sources believe that the Oklahoma explosion on Wednesday [19 April] was in retaliation for the destruction of the Davidian sect's premises two years ago. In that event, which occurred two years ago at about the same time, nearly 90 persons of this sect, including women and children, were killed by the U.S. Government forces.

In addition, in view of the fact that the nine-story building which was the venue of the Oklahoma explosion accommodated the offices of some sensitive government apparati, including an FBI branch and the anti narcotics center, the possibility of the involvement of some antigovernment groups and some disenchanted elements, including the Davidian sect, is heightened.

For the U.S. officials to admit this reality would be tantamount to acknowledging the insecure position of the Washington administration and of Clinton personally; therefore, the U.S. Government endeavored to accuse the various anti-U.S. Islamic groups minutes after the news of the explosion was disseminated. The announcement of the arrests of three persons who were citizens of Middle Eastern countries was part of the propagandist plots that are usually hatched by the U.S. hierarchy. This is an ancient ploy which is quite ineffective at present and cannot disguise the immense frailty of the U.S. security and intelligence. It has failed to bolster Clinton's tottering position or even serve as an excuse for the adventurism of the U.S. echelons.

A government which claims to uphold human rights and considers itself the pioneer of civilization can never justify an attack on the premises of a religious sect and the heart-rending massacre of 90 human beings, including women and children. Such a government should accept the dangerous consequences of its misanthropic actions and await its retribution. The Oklahoma explosion—regardless of who or which group caused it—is an unacceptable action but should undoubtedly be considered one of the direct results of the performance of the U.S. officials who have transformed the United States into a cradle of terrorism with their atrocities.

U.S. Domestic Problems, Oklahoma Blast Viewed

NC2804083795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Apr 95 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "The U.S. Defeat in Tabas—A Lesson in the History of the Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every year, 5 Ordibehesht [25 April] revives the memory of the defeat of the U.S. military aggression in Tabas, an operation portrayed as an attempt to free the American hostages. But the documents and information on the defeat of the U.S. military showed that the U.S. military had more extensive objectives than freeing the American hostages; they showed that the major objective was to pave the way for overthrowing the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

That plot was nipped in the bud and we saw how Washington emerged perplexed and confused, unable to achieve anything. The U.S. leadership at the time consisted of Democrats—the same party that is in power in the U.S. today. And we see how this time too this administration is not only facing a defeat in its confrontation with the Islamic Revolution, but is also facing a crisis and is failing in many international and domestic issues.

The same characteristic that ruled the U.S. Administration in the days of the Tabas incident still rules the White House and has plunged U.S. foreign policy into a deadlock. It is obvious that the other faction that apparently shares power in the United States is not very different from the Democrats when it comes to deciding on major international issues. They have not perpetrated lesser crimes than the Democrats in their contrariety with Islam and the Islamic Revolution. But there is no doubt that in comparing the two factions, the Democrats are the hostages of Zionism more than the Republicans are and they move within the framework of the objectives, programs, and policies dictated by the Zionists.

Perhaps the American people do not have much choice in choosing their administration; they must constantly choose between two evils. And it is demagogic propaganda and fanfares that determine the victory of one party over the other, thus constantly depriving the American people of the best choice to lead American society.

The Oklahoma City explosion in which several dissatisfied military blew up the headquarters of the federal government in Oklahoma may sound a "major alarm bell" for the American public. This phenomenon with its immense scope

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was unprecedented and unique. But the facts show that the American public is facing an immense political-social crisis and that the Oklahoma explosion may have been the first sign of it.

A 12,000-strong militia in America is no small thing that can easily be ignored. The significance of this issue is felt more when we know that in American society acquiring arms and ammunition is not very difficult and that millions of people are legally allowed to own arms for their and their families' safety.

The other definition is that the organization and extent of the operations by uncontrolled terrorist groups, in a society where ethics and culture have no impact, cannot be ruled out. Each moment heightens the possibility that an organized terrorist group with one motive or another may try to impose its power. Safe guesswork on the impact of such a novel occurrence in American society may call for more information from within American society, where the problem is more serious and more profound, something the U.S. officials and the Zionist mass media are trying to cover in their efforts to mislead the public.

Let us not forget that immediately after the explosion and at a time when even initial information on the explosion was not available, some U.S. officials and mass media aimed the sharp edge of their propaganda and psychological war at the Muslims, alleging that they knew the perpetrators of the explosion and that they should be sought among the Muslims.

Let us not forget that attributing blame for any incident without carrying out the slightest investigation in a bid to fan the flames of public hatred for their rivals is an old propaganda ploy used by the West, especially America. During the Cold War, America tried in its domestic propaganda to propound the threat of Communism and to portray the communists and the East Bloc as a terrible monster. Today Washington is trying to portray Islam as the major culprit in every incident; we saw, in the first days after the Oklahoma blast, how everything came to light, thus foiling Zionist propaganda efforts. Of course this wave of propaganda and the psychological war in the first hours after the explosion was coupled with rage and aversion; today the lie-disseminating mass media have no alternative but to apologize for the sake of their prestige and to express regret for their initial positions.

The Oklahoma blast and other incidents throughout the U.S. show the extent of the American public's dissatisfaction, protests, and rage. These incidents cannot simply be ignored. Although America's mass media are not striving to conclude that these incidents show public dissatisfaction, even their insistence on covering up such issues cannot hide the social crisis the U.S. is facing today.

Can the repetition of such incidents daily mean the beginning of a new mode of thought among the grassroots of American society and the emergence of a motive among the American people for "revising the power structure?" This question may not have existed before yesterday. But today it is being posed as a serious question that the American public should gradually start asking, even if there may be no clear answer to it. In realistically assessing this situation, the American public should conclude that the American people are the major victims of the American Administration and of the crimes and injustice that are being imposed on them, followed by the other nations that are also suffering from the hellish rule of the hegemonistic rulers in America.

Kyrgyz Prime Minister Calls Visit 'Successful'

LD2704132595 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Kyrgyz Prime Minister, Abbas Dzhumagulov, left Tehran for the ancient city of Esfahan, in central Iran, following signing several letters of understanding.

Before leaving Tehran, Dzhumagulov in an interview with reporters termed Kyrgyz high-ranking delegation's visit to Tehran as very successful.

Exchange of high-ranking delegations between Iran and Kyrgyzstan will promote the friendly and brotherly ties relations the two countries, Kyrgyz prime minister said.

Meanwhile, first vice-president, Hasan Habibi, told reporters that the talks of the visiting Kyrgyz delegation with Iranian officials resulted in signing of several agreements in the areas of transportation, oil and gas, industry and mine, tourism and physical education, telecommunication, and joint campaign against drug trafficking.

During Kyrgyz prime minister's visit to Tehran, preliminary studies were made on joint investment in Kyrgyzstan's industries, car manufacturing industry in particular. A delegation of Iranian experts is due to visit Bishkek to make feasibility studies in the near future, Habibi added.

In a statment issued at the end of Dzhumagulov visit to Tehran, the two sides described promotion of peace and stability in Central Asia as the main factor for promoting economic and trade ties among the regional countries. Both sides pledged to do their best in this respect.

Iran and Kyrgyzstan have also voiced their concern over the continuation of present clashes and disputes in the region especially in Tajikistan and Afghanistan and called for a peaceful solution to the disputes.

The two countries have emphasized that Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) plays an important role in expansion of friendly among countries of the region. [sentence as received]

Furthermore, the two sides called for promotion of Tehran-Bishkek cooperation on the basis of international norms, mutual respect, and non-interference in each others internal affairs.

Kyrgyz prime minster is to conclude his visit to Iran after a one-day visit to Esfahan Province and inspecting industrial centers of the province.

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Commentary Views Kyrgyzstan Ties

LD2704131595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0959 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The three-day visit paid to Tehran by Abbas Dzhumagulov, the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, concluded this morning. The aim of the visit was to open a new chapter in the growing ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

In the course of the visit, talks were held between the high-ranking Kyrgyz delegation and high-ranking Iranian officials. The positive results of the talks were reflected in a press statement issued at the end of the visit of the Kyrgyz prime minister and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Iran and Kyrgyzstan enjoy valuable geopolitical potentials and economic resources which could meet the mutual needs of the two countries.

The Republic of Kyrgyzstan could play an important role in expansion of links in the region by serving as a linking-bridge between Iran, China, and Eastern Asia through Central Asia. The past history of Silk Route manifests this fact. That historical role—to serve as a link—should not only be played in the economic spheres but could be and must be revived in the political, cultural and information spheres.

An example of the new role that could be played by Kyrgyzstan, to which the Iranian president also referred, is related to the implementation of the fiber-optics telecommunication project, which links China to Germany. The telecommunication route will pass through Kyrgyzstan and will have a major role in facilitating the communication links among the countries in the region.

Naturally, the participation of Iran in this project will be in the all-round interest of all the member countries of the project. On the other hand, Iran possesses extremely valuable resources, which could be put at the disposal of Kyrgyzstan. Iran has recently proved its role in the strategic communication link by completing the railway route linking north to the south of Iran en route from Bandar-e Abbas to Bafq. Iran has transformed into a pivot on which the Central Asian countries could rely to establish economic and trade link with the outside world.

As a Central Asian country, the Kyrgyzstan is also willing and interested to use this historical opportunity to expand its ties with Iran in order to reach the warm waters of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. Naturally, the participation of the two countries within the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] will provide the opportunity for Kyrgyzstan to make use of the huge resources of this organization especially in relation to Iran.

Turkish 'Aggression' in Northern Iraq Viewed

NC2704194095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Apr 95 p 12

[Commentary by Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh: "The Kurds in the Slaughterhouse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The events in the Kurdish areas of Turkey and Iraq are proceeding as if to force the Kurds to remain silent or to annihilate them forever! Twelve million Kurds are gradually being sent to the slaughterhouses created by collusion between Ankara and Baghdad because of their lust for power and because of, in part, the personal malice of their leaders.

In order to end the saga of the Kurds, Saddam has adopted the policy of patience and waiting. The Ciller government has adopted that of aggression. However, neither of these strategies has endured and soon conditions will require a new strategy. Perhaps in the next era of the black history of the Kurds, the two strategies will be reversed and Saddam will do the killing and the Turks will be the spectators, awaiting the completion of their plan at the hands of their executioner neighbor.

With the advent of the new [Iranian-Kurdish] year [beginning 21 March 1995], Ankara, using 35,000 soldiers, launched an extensive attack against the Turkish Kurds who had fled to northern Iraq. Ankara sought to assure its cohort regarding the so-called rebels as well as to display its military strength as the fourth most organized armed forces of the world to its regional rivals. Perhaps in this manner it could attract the attention of its NATO allies and could even achieve its economic objectives regarding the EU.

In addition, by staging the military action in northern Iraq as the most important event at the end of 1373 [year beginning 21 Mar 1994], Ciller sought to divert world opinion from the Islamist uprising and opponents in the month of Esfand [20 February-20 March].

On the government level, while Saddam's and Ciller's foreign and interior ministers have partial tactical convergence, this has not prevented limited short term maneuvers against the Kurds. This is because any closeness to Kurds is only to achieve immediate objectives.

Presently, Turkey, with its relative suppression of the Kurds, wants to delegate the future security of its borders to Barzani. Because of Turkey's traditional support of him, the activities of the Turkish Red Crescent in Iraqi Kurdistan, and of the daily smuggling of 1000 barrels of gasoil to Barzani which has paved the way for bilateral cooperation. However, the fact is that if, in the future, the Iraqi government forces were to initiate a multipronged attack against the Kurds, Ciller would not be ready to place even one division of 35,000 Kurds under its shield of protection.

The only hindrance to an attack on the Kurds by Saddam, who has a vendetta against the Kurds, is his hope for a lifting of the sanctions, which the United States continues to insist upon. He was optimistic that at least some Iraqi Kurds would be sacrificed as a result of the divisive measures and due to Ankara's aggression.

Saddam, who encounters a coup d'etat attempt an average of once every three months, managed to foil the latest one in Esfand where Talabani played the pivotal role. According to the plan, it was envisioned that 10,000 of Talabani's men would battle with the fifth battalion of the Iraqi armed

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forces in the first stage on the Kurdistan border near Karkuk. An Iraqi division, which was supposed to have mutinied, was to move toward Baghdad, and the former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, al-Samarra'i, who had fled to Kurdistan during the Persian Gulf war, was to capture Saddam on his travel to al-Tikrit. However, as the coup attempt unfolded, the CIA's misunderstanding, Barzani's non-cooperation and the hollow plan of al-Samarra'i, resulted in the coup not getting off the ground.

In any case, Saddam's current silence could be construed as revenge from Talabani for risk [preceding word in English] in last March. This is despite that the vengeful ruler wishes to end the silence through future military aggression against Kurds. The initiator of the Halabjah tragedy has been counting the minutes for quite some time.

During this short time, Saddam has tacitly accepted the unrest in Kurdistan in order to drive home to regional and non-regional governments that the absence of the protective umbrella of the presidential guard forces in Kurdistan and throughout Iraqi territory will result in continued unrest.

Ultimately, some political circles in Turkey are said to want peace in northern Iraq after their forces' departure. This is not true. These circles believe that Ankara's fear of an influx of refugees from civil strife in Iraq is the reason for believing this.

The fact is, that Ciller's use of the Kurds is as a temporary expedient for the purpose of longterm objectives. Turkey has consistently and overtly opposed the concept of an independent Kurdistan and indirectly, one which is also powerful and autonomous. The important issue on the Ankara security table is the terminating of the Kurdish threat at home and the suppression of the Kurds in neighboring northern Iraq. Despite Ankara's threat, even the Kurdish officials do not want to hand over the Turkish Kurds to their neighbor's government.

Further Views on Turkish Incursion

LD2704163595 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Ankara must realize that the territorial integrity of Iraq is vital not only for Baghdad's regime, but also for the entire region, English language daily IRAN NEWS said in its editorial Thursday [27 April].

The paper questioned the huge offensive by the Turkish troops into the Iraqi soil in March. "A very simple question is now being raised among political observers in Iran and elsewhere. What did Turkey achieve through its massive military operation? Did Turkey succeed in crushing Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) members?"

In a respond to oppositions from several states, particularly the European countries, Turkish Army announced on Tuesday that 20,000 more troops had recently pulled out, leaving 12,000 Turkish soldiers in north of Iraq.

A 35,000 strong Turkish contingent took part in an offensive inside the Iraqi territory in what was called an operation to crush the Kurdish opposition based in Iraq.

"Ankara should note that the geopolitical situation in that particular trouble spot is such that a military incursion will not only fail, but will also aggravate the turmoil in that part of Turkey," IRAN NEWS commented.

A more important fact, the paper said, is that Turkey violated Iraq's sovereignty with "a military invasion" into its neighbor's soil.

"A change in the geographical boundaries of any country in this region will have an adverse impact on all-with no exception," it said.

Polluting Factories Relocated Outside Karaj

95LA0130H Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 16 Jan 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] The factories located in the Chaharsad Dastgah region in the municipality of Karaj are being moved outside the city because of environmental pollution.

On Saturday the municipality of Karaj chief of environmental affairs said: These factories include the Sa'id Petro Oil Refinery, the Chintz World Textile Plant, the World Soap Factory, and the World Vegetable Shortening Plant. Some of these have been operating for about 30 years.

In this regard Raja'i added: The sewage produced by these factories is estimated to be more than 150,000 liters per hour.

The Chaharsad Dastgah region is in the northwest part of the municipality of Karaj.

Production Up at Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex

95LA0130B Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 18 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] IRNA—In the first nine months of the current year [21 March-21 December 1994] production at the Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex increased 25.2 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

On Monday the deputy executive director of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company said: During this period 9.775 million tons of copper ore, with a growth of 21 percent, and 279,450 tons of molybdenite concentrate and industrial lime with a total growth of 25 percent, were produced at this complex.

Engineer Ahmad Morad-'Alizadeh added: Likewise copper production at this complex's foundries was 102,000 tons, with 26 percent growth.

Production figures on copper cathodes with growth of 24 percent, and on eight-millimeter wound wire with growth of 31 percent, were 75,300 tons and 37,000 tons respectively.

He said the gold extracted from 256 tons of slurry produced by the production of copper was 13 hundredths of a percent

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or 322.8 kilograms, and the silver extracted from the same amount of slurry was 5 percent, or 1,280 kilograms.

The deputy executive directory of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company discussed the operation of other copper mines in the country. He said: With the installation of the necessary machinery so far 10 million tons of soil has been removed from the Ahar Sungun Mine.

He said this mine's capacity is 660 million tons of copper ore with an assay of 7-tenths percent. He said: The removal of another 40 million tons of non-ore materials from the complex will begin next year.

Increase in Production of Steel Goods Reported

95LA0130C Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 25 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—The production of salable steel products by the units under the Ministry of Mines and Metals increased 21 percent.

The Public Relations office of the Ministry of Mines and Metals reports that in the first 10 months of the current year [21 March 1994-20 January 1995] the units under this ministry were able to produce 3.82 million tons of steel products, and this figure represents a 21 percent increase over the same period the previous year. Meanwhile the Iran National Industrial Steel Group produced 475,000 tons of goods, showing the highest rate of growth compared to the same period in the year 1372, at 84 percent. Ranked next is the Kavian Steel Company, producing 195,000 tons of the same product with a resultant growth of 69 percent compared to the period mentioned.

During the same period the Mobarakeh Steel Complex produced 1.169 million tons of slab steel and 860,000 tons of sheet steel, showing respective increases of 56 and 49 percent (compared to the same period the same year) on these two products. In the period mentioned the Ahvaz Steel Complex Corporation was able to produce more than 1.2 million tons of steel bloom bars and slabs, showing growth of 25 percent compared to the first 10 months of the previous year [21 March 1993-20 January 1994].

In the last 10 months the Esfahan Iron Foundry Corporation produced 1.47 million tons of salable goods, representing a drop in production of five percent compared to the same period last year.

Aluminum production also grew significantly during this period, so that 97,000 tons of molten aluminum and 100,000 tons of cast aluminum were produced by the Iran Aluminum Corporation, showing growth respectively of 34 and 19 percent. In the first 10 months of the current year the Iran National Copper Industries Company produced 116,000 tons of anode copper (showing growth of 29 percent compared to the same period the previous year) and 84,000 tons of cathode copper (showing growth of 25 percent compared to the same period the previous year).

The production of wound copper grew 34 percent, with 41.5 thousand tons in the months mentioned. Thanks to the ceaseless efforts of those working in this company, production of cathodes with concentrated silver content was at 10,276 kilograms, and production of cathodes with concentrated gold content was 283 kilograms, both showing growth of 25 percent compared to the first ten months of the previous year. In the last 10 months the Iran Gold Company produced 342 kilograms of gold, a 25 percent decrease compared to the same period the previous year.

In the area of the production of zinc cathode sheets, the Calcimine Company was able to produce 48 tons, representing growth of 94 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

IRI Shipping Joins Information Highway

95LA0130I Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 30 Jan 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping has joined the international information highway through the use of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone's Data Center.

Engineer Mostowfi, director of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping's Communications Center and the Office of the Deputy Director for Technical and Operational Affairs, told IRNA: Currently 30 of the nation's commercial ships are equipped with satellite systems based on international laws.

According to him, this project involves the creation of a domestic network and the use of the maritime communications network and international data banks for international communications.

In conclusion, Engineer Mostowfi added: When the work is completed, Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping will have one of the most advanced communications and information centers.

*Duty Free Importing of Computers, Other Goods

95LA0162D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Feb 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—Computers and 10 other household goods may be brought into the country by passengers coming into Kish duty-free.

KEYHAN's correspondent reports that the guidelines on the amount of goods brought by passengers through Kish, which were issued on 29 Bahman [18 February], where conveyed yesterday (Saturday) by the deputy chief of Iran Customs to the Customs Executive Offices.

Based on these guidelines, passengers coming into the country through Kish Island, provided they have a travel card issued by the Kish Development Organization, may bring in goods once a year duty-free up to a foreign exchange limit of 150,000 rials [R], where the goods are not commercial or religiously or legally prohibited.

These guidelines add: A hand or handbag computer accompanying a passenger will be regarded as part of his personal effects. Likewise it was announced that importation has been authorized for 10 other items, including refrigerators,

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freezers, coolers, washing machines, dish washers, gas stoves, televisions, video machines, video cameras, and dinnerware.

Likewise goods accompanying a passenger in excess of the value mentioned may be cleared, provided they are non-commercial and are not religiously or legally prohibited, merely by paying the customs levies and twice the commercial profit fee.

These guidelines state that departing passengers bound for Kish may take only a maximum of R350,000 in cash or checks, and they do not have the right to take any kind of foreign exchange with them.

*First Cargo Ship Built Domestically Reported

95LA0162E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Mar 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr, IRNA—A large container and cargo ship has been designed and built for the first time in Iran.

This vessel, which was designed and built by the engineers and experts at the Iran Sadra Company, is 64 meters long, 15 meters wide and 4 meters high.

According to Mr Masha'allah Salemizadeh, executive director of the Iran Sadra Company, in terms of international standards this vessel is in the Lloyds of London Institute class and has a valid certificate for ocean navigation.

He added: This vessel is a loading craft capable of transporting 61 standard containers and 1,300 tons of fuel or water cargo.

The director of the Iran Sadra Company said: Two more vessels of this type are also under construction.

The Iranian maritime industrial company Sadra is the only builder of ocean vessels in Iran. This company was founded in the year 1348 [21 March 1969-20 March 1970].

Pakistan

Bhutto Opens Karachi Human Rights Conference

Reaffirms Support for Kashmiris

BK2704090995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called upon politicians, intellectuals and human rights activists to urge India to cease human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and allow the Kashmiri people to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination. She was inaugurating a conference in Karachi this morning on human rights and tolerance in Asian perspective organized by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the UNESCO. She said the people of Kashmir have been denied the human rights and are being subjected to the worst kind of atrocities and a reign of terror has been let loose to deter them from pursuing their struggle for freedom. She called upon delegates of the conference to use their moral influence on India for resolution of this outstanding dispute.

She said United Nations recognizes Kashmir as a disputed territory and the first Indian prime minister, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, had also made a commitment to hold a plebiscite there. She said Pakistan will continue to provide moral and political support to the people of Kashmir who are struggling for their right to determine their own destiny. The prime minister said if the issue Kashmir is settled, both Pakistan and India will drive good deal of benefit. She said the two countries have tremendous potential for marketing and economic growth and Pakistan could provide India the access to Central Asia.

Speaking of violation of human rights in other parts of the world, she said the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia must come to an end. Pakistan is prepared to send more troops for peacekeeping in Bosnia if sanctions are lifted, she added.

Vows To Protect Democracy, Rights

BK2704135795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has underlined the need of creating awareness for the protection of human rights and forging unity to defeat the forces which obliterate the light of civilization, human dignity and greater human values. She was speaking while inaugurating the three-day regional conference on human rights and tolerance with an Asian perspective in Karachi today. She said human rights is a core of Pakistan's founding principles. Highlighting the basis of the civilized society, the prime minister said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] Democracy with its noise and its clashes of ideas is the ideal system, a living system which nourishes, protects and enlivens countries. A tyranny is a society of the blind, the dumb, the deaf, the dead, soulless, directionless leading to political instability, economic stagnation and social chaos.

Today democracy with its openness faces the greatest threat from terrorism. From Kobe to Karachi to Oklahoma, the terrorists threaten to destabilize society, threaten the innocent and cause fear. What do individuals ultimately want? Safety from fear. The terrorists strike at their safety to create fear believing power comes from the barrel of a gun. It does not. It comes from the majesty of law and the voice of the namesless, countless citizens of a country determined to decide their own future. [applause]

We appeal to all of you gathered here today to help create a public awareness where people must realize that they cannot take the law into their own hands and if they seek to take the law into their own hands, they will find that the states will retaliate against them and will not be a silent spectator to their crimes against humanity. [end recording]

The prime minister continued and said when we defend human rights, we also defend the right of self-determination of the people of the occupied Kashmir. She added that

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Pakistan can never overlook the violation of human rights in the occupied valley and the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

She pointed out that Pakistan has a constitutional government, freely elected parliament with free political activity. She said our battle for full human rights would continue. She said that her government established cell and human rights tribunal for the disadvantaged groups. Similarly, the prime minister said, we strongly believe in the rights and welfare of the women population and are committed to improve their status.

Earlier, the chairperson of the UNESCO executive board, Dr. Atia Enayatullah, highlighted the need of tolerance, both in attitude and values. The chairperson of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Asma Jehangir, stressed the need for accomodation and tolerance in order to achieve the goal of the human rights protection.

Cabinet Meets on Accords, Bhutto's U.S. Trip

BK2604015895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Apr 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad, April 17 (APP)—The Federal Cabinet which met here Monday [17 April] under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi Arabia on cooperation to combat drug trafficking.

An official spokesman briefing newsmen about cabinet decisions said besides adopting a unanimous resolution to congratulate the Prime Minister on her successful visit to the United States the meeting also ratified a treaty of friendship and cooperation signed with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The spokesman said the MoU identified the following areas of cooperation to combat drug trafficking between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia:

—Exchange of relevant information about the operation regarding illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

—Exchange of information concerning the procedures to control and prevent the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

—Establishment of direct phone, telex and facsimile links for exchange of information.

—Extension of cooperation to facilitate investigations and provide legal assistance for prosecution of drug trafficking cases.

—Repatriation of offenders who have completed the punishment period for the crime committed.

—Exchange of relevant chemical analysis reports of the seized drugs.

—Exchange of applicable studies, researches, regulations and legislations regarding control of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

—Establishment of a permanent committee for examining the cooperation in the narcotics areas.

The unanimous resolution adopted by the Cabinet congratulating the Prime Minister on her successful US visit said:

"As a result of the Prime Minister's endeavours the United States has at the highest level acknowledged that the Pressler Amendment was unfair and discriminatory. The President of the United States is now committed to support measures to amend the discriminatory Pressler Law. The visit also succeeded in redefining Pakistan's relations with the United States in the post-cold war era and setting a new direction in Pak-US relations. These relations will now revolve around investment and trade facilities, not aid; on partnership not dependency."

The Cabinet also congratulated the Prime Minister in obtaining the support of Corporate America as witnessed by the conclusion of 6 billion dollars worth of MoUs, bringing the total amount of MoUs concluded with Corporate America to 10 billion dollars. They also noted that in a record period of less than 12 months financial closures worth 700 million dollars were concluded during the visit and that other closures that were expected in a month or two would bring the total to over 1 billion dollars.

The Cabinet appreciated the success of the Prime Minister in highlighting the Kashmir dispute and obtaining a positive response from the United States to conduct an active policy on Kashmir.

The Cabinet noted that the Prime Minister's efforts have broken Pakistan's international isolation which only two years ago was manifested in attempts by our enemies to declare Pakistan a narco-state and terrorist state. Instead of being targetted on these grounds, Pakistan is now considered a front-line state in the struggle against terrorism and drug-trafficking.

The Cabinet also acknowledged the efforts of the Foreign Office and the Economic Ministers as well as the Pakistan Ambassador to Washington in making the Prime Minister's visit a success.

The Cabinet ratified a cultural agreement signed with the government of Turkmenistan. Under the agreement, Pakistan and Turkmenistan shall promote cooperation in the spheres of radio, TV programmes, news coverage and closer liaison between the news agencies of the two countries. The two countries shall also encourage contacts and exchanges in the sphere of theatre and performing arts.

The cabinet ratified a treaty of friendship and cooperation signed with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the treaty the two sides agreed to promote cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial scientific and other fields. A joint inter-government commission is to be established for this purpose. The treaty of friendship and cooperation is not only aimed at strengthening bilateral relations but also to signal Pakistan's strong support to Bosnia in its struggle against Serbian aggression. [passage omitted]

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The cabinet approved conclusion of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation with the Russian Federation. The proposed agreement envisages grant of most-favoured-nation treatment to each other and conduct of trade in convertible currency. It provides a framework for development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries based on equality and mutual benefit.

The Cabinet approved the grant of compensation to the principals of educational institutions sent back from UAE [United Arab Emirates] last year.

Minister Views Outcome of Bhutto's U.S. Trip

BK2704154395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, federal minister for information and broadcasting, has said that as a result of the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's U.S. visit, Pakistan has effectively presented its case to the U.S. Administration. Addressing a public gathering In Islamabad today, he said that U.S. public opinion is now in favor of Pakistan on the Pressler Amendment, the F-16 aircraft, Kashmir, and nuclear nonproliferation issues, and more U.S. investments are flowing in. He said the U.S. investors have signed memoranda of understanding worth $6 billion, which shows they great confidence in Pakistan's effective economic policies. Kharal said that due to the present government's successful foreign and economic policies, Pakistan has acquired a high place in the comity of nations.

Foreign Minister Views Proposed Seismic Station

BK2804042895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said the proposed seismic station near Chakwal is part of an international monitoring system participated by 45 countries under the auspices of the United Nations to record seismic events in the world. Briefing editors and senior journalists in Islamabad yesterday, he said the station is not meant to monitor Pakistan's nuclear program. He said Pakistan is not being pushed to set up the seismic station. It is in our own interest to have it. He made it clear that the Chakwal station would be manned and operated entirely by Pakistani engineers and technicians. Even during its installation no foreign experts will be associated. The foreign minister said neither Iran nor China have conveyed their concern on the setting up of the station as both countries already have such kind of stations. India also set up this system in Bangalore a long time ago. Replying to a question, he said the equipment to be installed at the station has not yet arrived from the United States. It is in a process of being negotiated.

Details on 'Controversial' Project Urged

BK2604114095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Chakwal 'Seismic' facility"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the backdrop of charges and denials of a dubious deal behind the 'Seismic' monitoring facility at Chakwal, some revealing information about the controversial project has come to light. According to a press report a high official US source has confirmed that it is part of American effort to control the spread of nuclear weapons and to monitor nuclear programmes of countries like Pakistan, Iran and China. In written testimony before a House Sub-Committee, Under Secretary Lynn Davis acknowledged that the facility at Chakwal was part of a "deploy of seismic arrays in Egypt and Pakistan necessary to test a global network to verify a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty." The construction cost of the facility—$200,000—has been approved by the Congress and met from the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Fund set up by the US government some time ago. The official quarters in Islamabad have been reluctant to come clean about the terms of the arrangement with the US and there has been an obvious attempt either to withhold information of to sidetrack the core issue. Ironically, the government spokesmen have been issuing conflicting statements, apart from giving out ridiculous explanations, such as describing the Chakwal facility as an installation to monitor earthquakes. If it is an American brainchild and not an indigenous project, a fact that has been confirmed from the horse's mouth, and the US has deemed it necessary to bypass the Pressler Law to provide funds for it, what is Pakistan going to get out of the bargain is the moot question. And in case it has been an exigency of currying favour with Washington, the job has been overdone by letting the US spy on the nuclear activities of our friendly neighbours at our expense, besides the apprehension that Islamabad may have yielded to the US demand for 'verifiable capping' of our nuclear programme.

The Chakwal facility is designed to monitor the region for the benefit of the Americans. The US Assistant Secretary, Wendy R. Sherman, wrote to the Speaker of the House last year: "The US will directly benefit from completing this seismic station by increasing our ability to monitor testing activities in the region." The region, needless to say, includes Iran, which the Americans accuse of having nuclear ambition, and the Chinese who have been unwilling to accept the US dictates on the nuclear issue. Perhaps we haven't learnt any lessons from the foreign policy debacles of the fifties and sixties and are still prepared to let our soil be used for securing the targets of the US grand design, a la flying U-2 spy planes from Peshawar for reconnaissance over the Soviet Union. The cold war is over, but the contention for world supremacy is still on and we would be making a terrible mistake if we were to offer our services as a surrogate to the reigning superpower to establish our honourable intentions. It is high time the government came out with a clear, unambiguous and comprehensive statement on the issue of Chakwal Seismic facility and took the people into confidence about what is being seen as a dicey business.

Editorial Urges Indigenous Energy Projects

BK2804061895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Uch Power Plant"]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto while performing the ground breaking ceremony of Uch thermal power station, being built at a cost of 600 million dollars at Dera Murad Jamil about 300 kilometers from Quetta, pointed to the 20 billion dollars worth of MoUs [memorandums of understanding] recently signed by her government with foreign investors and added that the amount was an "unprecedented achievement in the history of Pakistan." There can be no denying the fact that attracting 20 billion dollars worth of foreign investment requires a set of economic policies which are considered to be transparent and investor friendly by prospective investors. And even though the critics of the present government are challenging the eventual translation of the MoUs into firm binding contracts, yet the fact remains that MoUs have been signed and, specifically, in the energy sector, the most sadly deficient sector in the country. Uch itself is being sponsored by Midland Electricity even though it would be owned by Uch Power Limited, a Pakistani company. The fact of the matter is that the continued inability of WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] to meet the country's energy needs is one of the major impediments to the attainment of development in this country. It is for this reason that any inflow of investment in the energy sector, particularly with foreign sponsorship, must be appreciated by the public.

Chairman and Chief Executive of Midland Electricity Mr Bryan Townsend stated at the ground breaking ceremony that Uch thermal power plant will greatly enhance Pakistan's drive to energy independence and it is targeted to provide approximately 600 megawatts of what Mr Townsend claimed was "reliable electric power", in contrast, one supposes, to the unreliable and frequently interrupted power supply from WAPDA sources. The fact that this project envisages using local fuel, namely gas, is an element that can be lauded as it would mean lower import bill for fuel. And considering that the funding for Uch is from international donors like the World Bank, IFC [International Finance Corporation], Dutch and German banks and Bank of China, shows that there is money for good development projects in Pakistan. It is hoped that other such projects, based on indigenous fuel, are established with foreign sponsorship in drive to end the energy crisis in the country.

Sri Lanka

Gunships Attack 'Terrorist' Hideouts

BK2704123595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Army engineers have repaired the section of the Mannar Causeway at Palaly blasted by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Security sources told LANKAPUVATH the traffic is now moving between the mainland and the Mannar island. Government troops also killed a terrorist at Pallimunai in the Mannar District. A report from Trincomalee states troops repulsed an attempt by a large group of terrorists to attack an Army detachment on Monday [24 April] night. The forces defended their camp successfully with heavy artillery, mortar, and small arms fire causing terrorist casualties which are not yet known. There were no casualties among troops manning the camp. Security sources said the Air Force helicopter gunships attacked several of terrorist hideouts in the Wilpattu game sanctuary close to the border of Puttalam and Mannar Districts in the last few days.

Troops Kill Cadres; President Urges Talks

BK2704160395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 27 (AFP)—Fresh fighting in northern Sri Lanka Thursday [27 April] left at least 18 Tamil rebels and three army troops dead, as President Chandrika Kumaratunga reiterated the government's commitment to revive a collapsed peace bid, officials said.

Government troops backed by aircraft cover launched a dawn offensive on two bases of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in northern Vavuniya district, causing heavy rebel casualties, officials said.

"It is now confirmed that 18 LTTE cadres were killed during the raid and many others injured. We suffered three dead and two wounded," military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said that the rebel casualty toll was bound to rise because airforce aircraft engaged and "completely destroyed" a few trucks that were bringing LTTE reinforcements to the battle-front.

The latest casualties raised to 89 the number of people killed in the northeast since April 19 when the LTTE announced it was ending a three-month old truce by blowing up two navy boats, killing 12 sailors.

Kumaratunga reiterated at a meeting of Sri Lanka's aid donors in Paris that her government would not be "discouraged" by the LTTE's decision to end the truce and pull out of peace talks, and welcomed international reaction, condemning the rebel action.

She hoped that international opinion would make the guerrillas realise that there were "no military solutions" to the problem.

"For our part, we are willing to go anywhere, any place, any length to seek a peaceful and honourable resolution," Kumaratunga said in her speech, a copy of which was released here Thursday.

The United States has led a chorus of criticism from western governments over the LTTE's decision to end the truce.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils who are concentrated in the region.

More than 30,000 have died in the protracted ethnic conflict in the past two decades.

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LTTE Attacks Army Camp; Soldiers Killed

BK2804005795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0036 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 28 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked an army camp in northern Sri Lanka Friday [28 April], killing at least 14 soldiers, and continued shelling another military base in the region, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) mounted a pre-dawn assault against the Araly Point army facility located on a small islet just off the rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula, chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said a policeman was also killed and another two were seriously wounded during a similar attack against a police station at Vavunativu in the island's east Friday, raising the overnight death toll to 15.

He said the LTTE had also kept up an attack against the main army and airforce complex of Palaly inside the Jaffna peninsula while the Araly camp was under fire.

"We have lost 14 soldiers in Araly Point attack this morning. It looks like the terrorists came in small boats. We are still awaiting details," Brigadier Munasinghe said. He added there were no military casualties at Palaly.

The latest LTTE strike came a day after the military conducted a limited offensive elsewhere in Sri Lanka's northern mainland, killing 18 rebels. Three soldiers were killed in the operation.

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